

A Doubter's Daily

THE SOFT
AUTOCRACY
OF LOVE

Pure Otherness

Most of the Scripture quotations are taken from TODAY'S PARALLEL BIBLE, UPDATED, NIV, NASB, KJV, NLT, 2000, The Zondervan Corporation, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Other references to Scripture quotations are provided by the author.

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Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

[[A nanosecond after we die
Our egos are forever gone
And utterly forgotten; ...
Yet our agency may live on,
God willing.]]

PREFACE

This work has grown over many years. It was begun in 1996 as a booklet of Love poems.

I became incensed when a Pulitzer Prize winner claimed that the Love of God was first introduced in Scripture in the book of Job. I was shocked that someone could overlook the Love Commandments in Leviticus and Deuteronomy to focus on Job. I was determined to show that Love was a Biblical theme much earlier in Scripture. I later learned that some Biblical scholars suggested that Job could have been a very early work as part of an oral tradition. By then I was well into repeating or restating or responding to Love beginning with Genesis. I got so enthralled with the project that I wrote verse based on each and every book all the way to Revelation.

It was an enormous joy to respond to Love with love for over a year.

At that point, I was casting around for another project. It occurred to me that Peace is the word most frequently associated with Love in the whole of Scripture. Therefore, I decided to attempt to repeat, restate or respond to Peace beginning this time with Revelation. Once again, I was able to write verse for each book all the way back to Genesis. The joy I experienced did not subside in the slightest. If anything, I was more energized than ever.

I wanted another project, but I wasn't sure that I wanted to read through all the books of the Bible for a third time. Looking at the words Love and Peace, I was somewhat surprised to realize that Truth is the word most frequently associated with those two. Since Jesus the Christ declares that He is the Truth, I decided to

repeat or restate or respond in verse about Jesus. In order to be somewhat comprehensive, I decided to observe all of the different titles that refer to Jesus. I was amazed to discover how closely the initials corresponded to the letters of the alphabet. In fact, with only two additions, the initials of the explanatory titles that Jesus accepted filled out the complete alphabet. Here then was a third verse project.

After completing three booklets, I began wondering about naming the material. Because they were verses and because a new millennium was upon us back then, I happened on the name Millennium Songs. I called the booklets: The Way of Love, The Word of Peace and the Work of Truth. I printed them up and handed them out to friends and relatives. The work might have ended right then and there.

Yet, something felt missing. According to the Love Commandments, we are to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength. I thought that I had, however inadequately, praised God in verse according to heart, soul and mind. I wondered about praising God with a total response in verse through strength.

I had no idea what that meant but I knew where to begin. The source of Love, Peace and Truth was God. If God alone made the Love Commandments possible, then Strength too must come from God. I concluded that Strength may come in the form of Acts of God Will. Here was a fourth project, the Acts of God. The alphabet had proven to be a good guide for the Work of Truth booklet, so I chose to try to write verse about the Acts of God, alphabetically. Obviously, the Acts would be vastly under described but I wouldn't have much trouble identifying 26 diverse Acts of God. The verses gradually grew into the Will of Faith booklet.

About that time, I began noticing a number of daily inspirations. These inspirations weren't showing up on religious book-

shelves, they were appearing in the philosophy section among the Stoics. As a child, I had been introduced to daily religious devotionals. Here now were philosophical “inspirational” obviously written for adults. It is one thing to promote the wisdom of the ancients. However, it is quite something else to use stoicism as a form of daily inspiration for adult self-help.

I wondered if it might be time for a book that I hoped might be of Spiritual help. Thus began The Autocracy of God work. It made sense to me that one should start by acknowledging the Authority of God.

Throughout scripture there are more than 800 different terms used to describe God in the second and third person. I’ve counted them. Yet, scatter throughout scripture there are as few as 85 different Self-references to God using “I AM “ phrases. Surely it is God, not humans, who established God’s Authority. Can you imagine my surprise when I discovered that the “I AM “ phrases could be grouped alphabetically? Those groupings became the basis for the Days of the Father verses.

God through Self-reference makes it quite clear that Divine Authority is Absolute. However, God explains God’s Authority through Christ Jesus as radically different from that of human authority. God’s authority comes with freedom. It is a freedom at least temporarily to accept or reject God’s Authority. Yet, it is a freedom that frees us for a more abundant life if we accept God’s Authority. I regarded that Authority, though ultimately Absolute, as a softer, less immediate form of Authority. Consequently, I changed the name of the work to The Soft Autocracy of God.

God not only reveals God through the I AM addresses. God revealed God especially through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. People in Jesus’ day are said to have asked him

if He was the Messiah. They claimed that if He told them plainly the truth, then they would believe him. His reported Truly, Truly replies became the basis for another series of my verses. Yes, they too followed in an alphabetical sequence. The statements can be sequenced alphabetically using the initials of each key word. In this case, it may have been an oral mnemonic. In any case, it became the basis for the Days of the Son verses.

Having the Days of the Father, the Days of the Son, The Way of Love, The Word of Peace, The Work of Truth and The Will of Faith, I had about two thirds enough material for a daily devotional for a full year. To complete the year, I decide to reread the whole of Scripture. In each book, I looked for a central or significant theme. Then either repeating or restating or responding to that theme, I tried to express it in verse. The Old Testament themes I call Alpha verses and the New Testament themes I call Omega verses.

The reader needs to be prepared for considerable repetition. There are variations on several central themes, such as daily doubting, other-centredness and Pure Otherness. There are also literal repetitions of short sections of verse and one section of prose.

I have often been puzzled by the number of verbatim statements in Scripture. For example, why is Psalm 14 repeated three times, why are parables repeated several times, and why are the Love Commandments repeated at least six times. Emphasis and verification are two likely explanations. I like to think it is for depth of understanding and appreciation. There is so very much God can teach us using the very same words. If the reader finds a passage repetitive, could I suggest rereading it several times. Repetition will not make the words true, but repetition may reveal new levels of meaning.

Unlike the daily inspirational of the modern Stoic writers, my daily devotionals were Doubter Dailies. Within the commentary that follows each of the daily verses, I included a statement of doubt. The doubts were never intended to doubt God or any aspect of Divine revelation. The doubts are about humanity. I constantly doubt that humans are capable of learning from God unaided. That has lead me to believe that God does in fact assist us to learn about God and to live according to God's Love Commandments. We are free to fail to do so but God is constantly present to enable us to do so if and when we chose to respond to God's call. This constant readiness and willingness I have come to view as God's Pure Otherness.

God, as the Source of all, needs nothing, certainly nothing from us. God is unconditionally devoted to God's creation. In turn, God commands humanity to live in response to God's Pure Otherness by living a human life of otherness towards God and towards our neighbours and towards all of creation.

This is a lesson I think our day and age needs to relearn. Relearn because it was well understood by some individuals in the past but not yet well enough understood in the present. We can remember political leaders who were less self-centred than many of our current leaders. Scripture tells us about individuals, groups, and whole communities who were more responsive to Love than some of those we are acquainted with today.

May your spirit soar with the verses in this book. Let us join together in singing daily praises to God.

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CONTENTS

I AM MY LOVE

Day 1

TRULY, TRULY

Day 27

YOU ARE

Day 53

THE WAY OF LOVE

Day 80

THE WORD OF PEACE

Day 137

THE TRUTH

Day 194

THE WORK OF TRUTH

Day 220

TRULY, TRULY

Day 251

SPIRITUAL LIVING

Day 277

THE WILL OF FAITH

Day 303

Days of the Father:

I AM MY LOVE

Day 1

**I AM ALPHA;
I AM YOUR LORD GOD ALMIGHTY...
you need to acknowledge
THE ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY OF MY LOVE.***

The only way to Love is from God and by God and through God:
In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with
God and the Word was God. John 1:1

Divine Love is the only moral Absolute:

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No
one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

The nature of the Absolute is revealed to be Pure Otherness:

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He
who does not love does not know God, for God is Love. In
this the love of God was manifested towards us, that God
sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might
live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God,
but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning
sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:7-10

[Some claim that Jesus was only a good man. However, a simply good man could not reveal the radically different nature of Divine Love. Others think and say that each of us is a part of the Divine. Yet, to deny the radical chasm between God and man does not raise man up but attempts to lower God to a human level. It was God alone who chose to bridge the chasm. The Goodness of God is extremely far reaching. An acknowledgement of such Goodness is a human response to that Goodness acting in and through humanity. I doubt that we will ever even begin to imagine the extent of God’s Goodness.]

- Then beginning with Moses and with all the Prophets, He explained to them the things written about Himself in all the Scriptures.
- Luke 24:27
- Let God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit convince you whether or not these statements are true.

Day 2

**I AM IN THE BEGINNING;
I AM YOUR LIVING BREAD...
you need to acknowledge
THE BLESSINGS OF MY LOVE.**

Divine Love is in every new beginning. Divine Love enables newness to occur.

In the beginning, God created... Genesis 1:1

Divine Love gives us *new* life, not more of the same.

... springing up to eternal life. John 4:14

We can be taught to acknowledge the endless abundance of Love's gifts.

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance for every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

[Divine Love leads us forward into every new day, every promised land, eternal life. Life is conscious awareness and agency. I doubt that any awareness of love is ever lost.]

Day 3

**I AM COMPASSIONATE;
I AM YOUR CREATOR...
you need to acknowledge
THE COMMANDMENTS OF MY LOVE.**

Divine Love is Pure Otherness.

... able to empathize with our weaknesses. Hebrews 4:15

Creator of all, Sustainer of life and Preserver of Love

Know that the Lord Himself is God: It is He who has
made us and not we ourselves. Psalm 100:3

What mere human being would claim to be able to fulfill the
Love Commandments?

Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your
heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This
is the first and greatest commandment. And the second
is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law
and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”
Matthew 22:27

[Divine Love does not need our love. Divine Love alone can enable us
to experience otherness, other-centredness. The Love commandments
serve as experiential proof of the existence of God. Religious philoso-
phers may attempt to define God as omnipotent, omniscient, omni-
present and eternal. Yet, those human terms have as limited a mean-
ing as the highest number or the greatest good. I doubt that there is
any way for man to define God. The Love commandments serve as a
God given human response to Divine Love. They also serve to indicate
the complexity of human nature: we can be other-centred beings,
emotionally, spiritually, intellectually and physically.]

Day 4

**I AM THE DOOR;
I AM YOUR LIVING DEATH...
you need to acknowledge
THE DELIVERANCE OF MY LOVE.**

We cannot remain in the doorway. If we want to find pastoral peace and quiet stillness, we must move out, only to come back in again. Jesus is the way to other-centredness but ego-centredness is our natural condition.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want... Psalm 24

The dying usually cling to life for life is hopeful awareness. Yet, in Him our egoism can die and we can live more abundantly.

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10

It is not enough for us to know ourselves. Only God can deliver us from ourselves. Our ego-centredness is part of our very rational structure, our individual perspective, our reflective nature. We can now die to our natural condition that we might live continually in other-centredness through the Spirit of unconditional Love.

My brothers and sisters, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you could be joined to another, though the one who was raised from the dead, to bear fruit to God. Romans 7:4

[We must not allow ourselves to become locked into any one of our four modes of self-centred existence. Emotionality can be paralyzing. Spirituality can be self-serving. Intellectualism can be impractical. Physicality can be short-sighted. In spite of a constant unity of conscious experience, I doubt that we can ever achieve other-centredness on our own]

Day 5

**I AM ETERNAL LIFE;
I AM YOUR IMMANUEL...
you need to acknowledge
THE ENDURANCE OF MY LOVE.**

To overcome death or at least to extend life is an ongoing human goal. However, having merely more of the same is not what we aspire to. Love renews our spirit with *newness* of life.

Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

Divine Love is with us: Jesus, Emmanuel

They shall name him Emmanuel, which means, “God with us.” Matthew 1:23

Endurance is a test. Divine Love passes every test.

Love never ends. I Corinthians 13

[I doubt that we will ever even begin to comprehend what Love endures in and through Christ Jesus.]

Day 6

**I AM THE FIRST;
I AM YOUR FATHER...
you need to acknowledge
THE FAITHFULNESS OF MY LOVE.**

The first love commandment is our response to ultimate good in our lives, a response that only Love can make possible. The second love commandment of otherness is clarified by Christ.

Jesus, the author (originator) and finisher (perfecter) of our faith. Hebrews 12:2 (clarification mine)

Righteousness, right relationships – father, son, mother, and daughter – are central in Scripture. They are an indication of the strongest human bonds we know. Yet, they would appear to be a far, far cry from the relationship among the Father, Son and Holy Spirit... and God with us.

... that they may be one just as We are One. John 17:21

Divine Love is faithful though we are not. God's nature as revealed to us is one of Pure Otherness. However, that Otherness grants us an incredible degree of freedom, self-centredness. I doubt that the numerous evils that some would attribute to God can compare with the numerous evils that we can actually attribute to humanity. We are such flukes and such failures. Yet, God still loves us.

Let God be true but every human a liar. Romans 3:4

[Truth sets us free. The truth ever exceeds our grasp. Still the truth can have a hold of us. I doubt that anything can separate us from the Love that God has for the whole of creation.]

Day 7

**I AM THE GLORIFIED GOD OF ALL FLESH;
I AM YOUR GOD...
you need to acknowledge
THE GIFTS OF MY LOVE.**

Could we have a God-like Love for all of creation? God creates and sustains all life. Could Love not also preserve all life?

God saw everything that he had made and it was very good. Genesis 1:31

God is Love. God is not mocked nor manipulated. The Loving Spirit is our God.

I AM your God, says the Lord God. Ezekiel 34:31

All good things come from God as gifts of the Loving Spirit.

Men and women have different gifts, but it is the same Spirit that gives them. I Corinthians 12:4

[We are free to reject Love's gifts or even to claim them as our own. However, such ego-centredness does not alter God's purpose and achievement. I doubt that any Love given gifts can be destroyed.]

Day 8

**I AM HE, THE HOLY ONE;
I AM YOUR HEALER...
you need to acknowledge
THE HUMILITY OF MY LOVE.**

God alone is able to declare Himself Holy. Yet, Love insists that we too must be holy. I doubt that anyone other than God can make us perfectly loving, perfectly other-centred.

You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.
Leviticus 19:2; Matthew 5:48

I can imagine the individuality of other people even as I can imagine my own individuality. Yet, the selves we most often think we know are merely the ego stories we may try to convince ourselves as to who we are. We are as likely to have a collective identity as we are to have an individual identity. However, the wellbeing of our agency, individually or collectively, depends upon Divine Love.

Proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. Matthew 4:23

We are such contradictory creatures. When we try to be humble, we end up being proud of our efforts. Divine humility is not assuming, it is sincere. Divine humility puts others first.

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each value others better than himself. Philippians 2:5-8

[Not one: no creatures are loving, are good, have understanding or seek God on their own, not one. Nevertheless, most, if not all, get to experience Love's presence... repeatedly.]

Day 9

**I AM WHO I AM;
I AM YOUR INCARNATE GOD, IMMANUEL...
you need to acknowledge
THE INDWELLING OF MY LOVE.**

We do not know God or anything about God until God reveals God.

I AM has sent me to you. Exodus 3:14

That God became human and dwelt among us defies credulity. When we try to imagine such a thing, we come up empty or filled with human confusions. We think the incarnation must be a myth just like all other religious myths ... until the Holy Spirit teaches us that unconditional Love is not a myth.

The one who is coming to stand by you, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will be your teacher and will bring to your minds all that I have said to you. John 14:26

In prayer, we attend to God in relationship with God.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Romans 8:26

[I doubt that we will ever comprehend the experience of God given Faith.]

Day 10

**I AM JEHOVAH AND I AM JESUS;
I AM YOUR JUST AND JEALOUS GOD...
you need to acknowledge
THE JUDGMENT AND JOY OF MY LOVE.**

The contradictions that make up our understanding of humans and humanity are as nothing compared to the contradictions that comprise our sense of God. We only know that central to Divine self-revelation is God's judgment based on unconditional Love.

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Christ Jesus. John 1:17

There is no other Saviour and He did not die for nothing.

By the grace of God, he might taste death for everyone.
Hebrews 2:9

When we try to do God's work on God's behalf, we inevitably fail.

Without love, we are only noisy gongs and clanging cymbals. 1 Corinthians 13

[Some doubt the need for a Savior. Others doubt the need for an Intermediary. I doubt that the Loving Spirit will be ignored. Without a Saviour, we remain ego-centred. Without an Intermediary, there is no way to other-centredness. I doubt that humans and humanity can survive for long without the Loving Spirit's intervention, whether or not it is recognized.]

Day 11

**I AM KIND;
I AM YOUR GREAT KING...
you need to acknowledge
THE KINGDOM OF MY LOVE.**

Love Divine is kind to acknowledge how very weak we are. It is our God-given strengths that can be our greatest weaknesses when we refuse to acknowledge their source.

You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.
John 8:33

Throughout human history there have been great and even kind leaders. However, they died and their people reverted back to selfish chaos. The great King never dies.

For the Lord Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth. Psalm 47:2

The Kingdom of Divine Love is without ego-centredness. It is a relationship among other-centred selves. I doubt that ego-centred individuals would want to share in this kingdom. So, participants must first die to self in order for selfless relationships to flourish.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Matthew 5:3

[The Kingdom of Love is all inclusive but God alone makes that inclusivity possible. Yet, sometimes God says No for the sake of Divine Love.]

Day 12

**I AM LOVE, THE LORD OF LIFE;
I AM YOUR LIGHT...
you need to acknowledge
THE LAWS OF MY LOVE.**

Two commandments: love God and love individual neighbours. Love God completely. Love each other individually. These commandments can only be accomplished through God's agency, thereby becoming personal proof of Love's presence.

This is the greatest and first commandment and the second is like it. Matthew 22:38-39

The mind's light is insight. If there is no way forward and no way back, then you may be in exactly the right place: here and now.

I am the light of the world... the light of life. John 8:12
You are the light of the world. Matthew 5:14

Just as there are laws of nature, there are Unnatural Laws. Natural laws have causes and effects. Unnatural Laws have a Source and the Source may also be the enabling Response.

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. John 13:34

[I doubt that one's own personal experience can convince another. After all, personal experience at one time may not even convince oneself at another time. Nevertheless, personal experience is completely convincing even if only for a time.]

Day 13

**I AM MERCIFUL;
I AM YOUR MAKER AND YOUR MASTER...
you need to acknowledge...
THE MYSTERY, THE MIRACLES OF MY LOVE.**

There must be a fate far worse than death and we all die. To feel at odds with God's mercy would have been worse for Jonah than being thrown into the sea and swallowed up by a whale.

I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant is lovingkindness. Jonah 4:2

Reality is that which reveals itself in ever new ways. Nevertheless, natural revelation is not immediate or direct Divine revelation.

When I consider Your heaven....

What is man that You are mindful of him. Psalm 8:3-5

The slightest Divine insight is more than enough proof of Love's Will.

As the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts higher than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:9

[I doubt that we on our own will ever be able to give You the respect and praise, let alone the love, due to You.]

Day 14

**I AM KNOWN;
I AM YOUR NEWNESS...
you need to acknowledge
THE NAME OF MY LOVE.**

Jesus is the mediator through whom all that can be known of God is known.

Be still and know that I AM God. Psalm 46:10

The truly new comes from and by Love alone.

So we should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4

With deepest respect and with utmost praise, humanity as one will worship God.

As I live says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. Romans 14:11

[I doubt that we will attain undivided understanding and a unified newness individually. Individually, we can and will become other-centred: part of the body of Christ.]

Day 15

**I AM OMEGA;
I AM YOUR OBEDIENCE AND YOUR ONENESS,
you need to acknowledge
THE PURE OTHERNESS OF MY LOVE.**

In the beginning and at the end of our life is Love.

I AM the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1:8

The one response to the Will of Love is love.

As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. John 15:10

God's Otherness is not one of being separate and apart. We know God, the Wholly Other, as Love wholly towards us.

They shall call His Name Immanuel which means God with us. Matthew 1:23

[Divine Love cannot be mocked nor manipulated. I doubt that we can have any clear and distinct idea Who we refer to when we say God. In other words, the True God would not even exist for us if Love chose to remain hidden.]

Day 16

**I AM A MOST POWERFUL PRESENCE;
I AM YOUR PEACE...
you need to acknowledge
THE PURPOSE OF MY LOVE.**

There are times when I think I perceive a coaxing, even a prodding, of events when things turn out surprisingly well. When a remarkable recovery is achieved against difficult odds. It still relies on freedom of choice, but I doubt that humanity created the choices.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.
Romans 8:28

Inner peace is sometimes much harder to experience than outer contentment. Outer turbulence does not result in the same paralysis as inner turmoil.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philip-
pians 4:7

The good news is that the Kingdom of Love is here and now.

For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14:17

[I doubt that God has any other purpose for us than His Love. For all else, we are free to be and to do as we please. However, other-centredness remains a goal towards which our acts need to pass.]

Day 17

**I AM THE QUESTIONER;
I AM YOUR DISQUIETUDE...
you need to acknowledge
THE QUICKENING OF MY LOVE.**

While knowledge does increase, the questions escalate. Yet, the central questions remain the same.

Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:68

A new way of life in the Spirit is not a possession but a form of service. We may long to serve if we have ever experienced spiritual life.

That we may serve in the new life of the Holy Spirit. Romans 7:6

The fruits of the Spirit are forms of service, of sharing and sharing in.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Galatians 5:22

[Divine Love's gifts are for giving as well as for receiving. I doubt that Love ever takes back a gift but we may too often freely refuse to live and to give in the Spirit. Spiritual life is a responsive gift.]

Day 18

**I AM THE RESURRECTION;
I AM YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS...
you need to acknowledge
THE REVELATION OF MY LOVE.**

The resurrection of Christ is at the heart of the Christian message. Divine Love means forgiveness and new life: forgiveness because Christ did what we are unable to do and new life because we belong to Him.

If Christ did not rise your faith is futile and your sins have never been forgiven. Moreover, those who died believing in Christ are utterly dead and gone. Truly, if our hope in Christ were limited to this life only we should, of all mankind, be the most to be pitied! 1 Corinthians 15:17-19

Since Christ lives in a right relationship with the Father, we can, through Him, join in the loving relationship of other-centredness. Such a relationship cannot be attained in any other way.

Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 5:20

Apart from Christ we would not know God's true nature. God has chosen to reveal Divine Love in and through Christ Jesus.

If I have the gift of prophesy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing 1 Corinthians 13:2

[I doubt that any of us can begin to understand the extent of our own ego-centredness. It is such a part of our mental structure, personal perspective and presence in the world that we cannot get beyond it ... on our own.]

Day 19

**I AM THE SUFFERING SERVANT;
I AM YOUR SANCTIFIER...
you need to acknowledge
THE SPIRIT OF MY LOVE.**

That suffering exists in God's creation is difficult for us to reconcile with God's power and Love. Even if much suffering is self-inflicted, it still seems unnecessary, even senseless. The suffering of children, the suffering in nature, the suffering of change... why is there so much suffering? One of the main roles of Love is to meet and to overcome suffering. The suffering servant provides for those in need. Suffering appears to be one of Love's ways of leading us into and out of our ego-centredness. We are led to an unsurpassed Comfort and Joy.

You welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the Joy given by the Holy Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 1:6

God teaches us to Love with Christ's Pure Other-Centredness.
... to make you Holy by the work of His Spirit and your own belief in the Truth. 2 Thessalonians 2:13

The Grace of God is the ultimate Good.

You shall be holy for I the Lord your God am Holy.
Leviticus 19:2

[I doubt that there is or could be any greater Joy or Holiness than Pure Otherness.]

Day 20

**I AM THE TRUTH;
I AM YOUR TEACHER...
you need to acknowledge
THE TRIALS OF MY LOVE.**

So much in science and morality and religion seems to be relative. Fundamental theories come and go, being replaced by more inclusive or less inclusive theories. We personally are often loathed to give up individual perspectives. Without an Absolute Truth, we have no sure footing.

I have come into the world to testify to the truth. John
18:37

Jesus taught us with parables. Using stories about the most commonplace things, He was able to reveal truths about the Kingdom of Love.

What is the Kingdom of God like and to what shall I compare it? Luke 13:18

Trials take us into and through and out of our ego-centredness and teach us patience and endurance for others.

Consider it all joy when you encounter various trials.
James 1:2

[I doubt that life can progress without trials and teachings and truth.]

Day 21

**I AM UNCHANGING;
I AM YOUR UNITY...
you need to acknowledge
THE UNIQUENESS OF MY LOVE.**

Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty.

Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love. Micah 7:18

Perfect unity is to be had only in Christ.

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect love. Colossians 3:14

Love always protects. Love always trusts. Love always hopes. Love never gives up. I Corinthians 13:7

[I doubt that there is anything or anyone anywhere or at any time that Love does not care about. We may know Who Love is but I doubt that we know what all Love can do. Nevertheless, Love can and does say No.]

Day 22

**I AM THE TRUE VINE;
I AM YOUR VICTORY...
you need to acknowledge
THE VOICE OF MY LOVE.**

No branch can yield fruit by itself.

You are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

It is the Love of God Who goes with you.

Death has been swallowed up in victory. 1 Corinthians
15:54

He stands at the door of our hearts and knocks.

This is my Son, the Beloved, listen to him! Mark 9:7

[I doubt that we can open the door to our hearts on our own.]

Day 23

I AM THE WORD, WORK, AND WILL;

I AM YOUR WAY...

you need to acknowledge

THE WONDERS OF MY LOVE.

God's Word of Peace, God's Work of Truth, God's Will of Faith is God's Way of Love.

The Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philip-
pians 4:7

God is Love. His commandments are of Love. God offers to us a Way of love.

Now, Israel, what does the Lord require of you except to revere Him, to obey all His commandments, to love Him, to serve Him with all your mind and being. Deuteronomy
10:12

The world is a wonder upon wonders.

How great are His signs, how powerful His wonders! His kingdom will last forever, His rule through all generations.

Daniel 4:3

[I doubt that humanity has even an inkling yet about what God's rule means.]

Day 24

**I AM EXALTED;
I AM YOUR EXAMPLE...
you need to acknowledge
THE EXPECTATION OF MY LOVE.**

Divine Love is the greatest Power, the highest Good and our only hope.

Be still, and know that I AM GOD! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth. Psalm 46:10

Only Love can fulfill the Will of Love.

I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. John 13:15

God enables us to share in His Love for the rest of creation.

The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Romans 8:19

[I doubt that humanity is the hope for humanity and creation.]

Day 25

**I AM THE “WHY”;
I AM YOUR YES...
you need to acknowledge
THE YOKE OF MY LOVE.**

Only one answer to so many questions.

The stumbling stone. Romans 9:32

Only one answer to so many promises.

In Him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.” 2 Corinthians 1:20

Only one yoke worth bearing.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:29

[I doubt that there is any greater peace or any greater joy than the experience of being yoked to Christ in Love.]

Day 26

**I AM ZEALOUS;
I AM YOUR ZION...
you need to acknowledge
THE ZYXT OF MY LOVE.**

There are many references in scripture to God being a jealous God. Sometimes these references to jealousy have been translated as zealousness. Surely the point is that God cares greatly for Love's creation.

The Lord became zealous for His land; He had compassion on His people. Joel 2:18

There are numerous references in scripture to life in relationship with God being a human destination.

Then you will know that I, the Lord your God, dwell in Zion, My holy mountain. Jerusalem will be holy, and strangers will never pass through her again. Joel 3:17

There is abundant evidence in scripture that we all have not only been seen, found and led by Love, but that God especially cares about the sufferings of all peoples.

The Lord said: I have surely seen the oppression of My people in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. Exodus 3:7

[Whenever we reflect, we tend to get important things backwards because of our mental perspective and personal reference. Only when we are given a different perspective can we begin to adopt a non-ego-centred point of view. I believe that God retains this act entirely as Love's own act. I doubt that senseless suffering will ever become meaningful apart from God.]

Days of the Son:

IF YOU ARE THE MESSIAH, TELL US PLAINLY.

John 10:23

Day 27

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS BORN, I AM.
John 8: 58**

[Jesus assures us that he is both human and Divine. In fact, he has always been the Divine creation of humanity.

I doubt that anyone of us can begin to comprehend the relationship of the Son to the Father except in terms of Divine Love: the Beloved Son of God.

I doubt that anyone of us can begin to comprehend the relationship of humanity to the Father except in terms of Divine Love: Christ's children of God.

We could not even begin to imagine such things. We must be told them. Having been told them, we need to be given faith to acknowledge them.

Acknowledging things we do not understand is a gift of confrontation. We obviously cannot believe everything we do not understand. We would rather not believe anything we do not understand. However, we believe there is just so much reality we do not understand and that ignorance escalates daily. Although our understanding is also increasing daily, we need the gift of faith to acknowledge what we are truly, truly being told about what we as yet do not understand.

Distinguishing between Divine faith and human imagination is an act of the Loving Spirit. Human imagination is a human perspective. Divine faith is a Divine perspective. A main difference between them is ego-centredness versus Pure Otherness.

When Jesus confronts us as I AM, acknowledgement comes as a spiritual necessity. There is no other way to an encounter of other-centredness and Pure Otherness.]

Day 28

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
UNLESS ONE IS *BORN AGAIN*,
ONE CANNOT SEE
THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

John 3:3

[In Psalms 14 and 53 and again in Romans 3, we are told that no one seeks God and no one does any good, not even one.

Although there are a number of horrendous characters in the world, most of us would claim to have met some genuinely good people. Many of us might start with our own parents who may have suffered and sacrificed for our benefit. Again, if not actually among friends and acquaintances, then at least among people we have heard of or read about, we would number good people.

Scripture, however, takes a much harder line. Scripture states that we are all transient, insignificant, ignorant and very, very arrogant if left to our own devices. We can accomplish nothing of lasting value on our own.

Divine things, though, appear to last for as long as God wills them to last. Divine things seem to be outside of time: timeless, eternal, never-ending, everlasting.

Once we are born into selflessness, we catch a glimpse of the Kingdom of God. Of course, at first, we are hardly even babes, let alone children of God. Endless growth and maturity await us but a selfless act marks a first step, a new beginning.

Not everyone, not anyone wants to take that first step into selflessness. Even though no lasting good comes from ego-centredness, I doubt that any of us can take the first step or the second step or any other step in other-centredness, unaided. We must be born into other-centredness again and again and again. Ego-centredness is our default nature.]

Day 29

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU,
A ROOSTER WILL NOT *CROW*
UNTIL YOU HAVE DENIED ME
THREE TIMES.**

John 13: 38

[Christ died even for all those ego-centred so and so's. We are each and everyone of us among those ego-centred so and so's.

I doubt that any of us would claim that we could be more loyal, more dependable, more faithful than chosen disciples? Whether we might claim it or not, it just isn't so. Our only individual, solely human goals are animal-like ego-preservation and ego-advancement.

Even after we have taken many tiny baby steps out of ego-centredness, we still easily backslide. Any threat to our egos is likely to be regarded as a threat to our entire being. Any advancement we attain is likely to be regarded as deserved, earned, achieved. We need to learn to see a threat to any others or an advancement of any others as far more important than one for ourselves.

Divine Love is our teacher. Love teaches us that other-centredness is an infinitely richer perspective and experience than the narrowness, the shallowness and limitations of ego-centredness.]

Day 30

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
IF ANYONE KEEPS MY WORD,
HE WILL NEVER SEE *DEATH*.
John 8: 51**

[Never see death? What an outrageous statement? Never die? Equally outrageous. Didn't Christ Himself die? Didn't Christ Himself see death?

Perhaps Jesus is telling us that our focus, our concentration, need not be on death. Since He has overcome death, we should be focused on life, especially other-centred life, life eternal.

I doubt that we will be focused on a more abundant life after we hear fearful words linked to disease, murder, war. Yet, Jesus may be telling us that we can actually be enabled to look beyond such horrendous things to focus on a better reality for all.]

Day 31

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
HE WHO BELIEVES HAS
*ETERNAL LIFE.***

John 6: 47

[Acknowledgement is evidence of new life. God creates in us an acknowledgement and a desire to move beyond mere ego-centred survival. Having eternal life means reaching beyond our own individual animal ego-centred existence towards other-centred heavenly realities.

Believing what we might discover is part of that gift: the ability to learn about what is right and good and true. Without that gift, such things are unlikely to be of much interest to us.

Although the experience of life itself is so amazing that we want to preserve it as long as possible, a more abundant life is almost beyond belief.

Eternal life then is a perspective on life that takes us out of ourselves. We start reaching for things beyond our transient, insignificant, ignorant, arrogant selves.

I doubt that humanity decides what is ultimately right and good and true. What is logically correct or morally good or causally true in some vast ways always exceed humanity's grasp.]

Day 32

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIMSELF
UNLESS IT IS SOMETHING HE SEES
THE *FATHER* DOING;
FOR WHATEVER THE *FATHER* DOES,
THESE THINGS THE SON ALSO DOES
IN LIKE MANNER.
John 5: 19**

[God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. God is three persons showing us, teaching us and willing us to live in Pure Otherness. We are to Love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength in Pure Otherness. We are to Love others as we are Loved.

If we who are emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical beings can act as a unity and a unity of unities, surely God can be in a relationship of Pure Otherness.

I doubt that we could imagine a fuller form of unity.]

Day 33

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
YOU WILL SEE THE HEAVENS OPENED
AND THE ANGELS OF GOD
ASCENDING AND DESCENDING
ON THE SON OF MAN.
John 1: 51**

[Since we have become scientifically minded, many people have largely given up believing in spirits and demons and angels. They regard them as figments of the imagination. Yet, perhaps it is through our imaginations that we still have access to possible realms of existence that would not otherwise be available to us. After all, some men of science believed in the existence of black holes and multi-universes before there was any conclusive evidence for them.

We create stories to try to explain actual events. Who has or who has not experienced a coaxing or a prodding of personal events entirely out of our control?

I doubt that we should ignore the probability of beings much, much greater than ourselves. To do so might simply be another example of extreme ego-centred ignorance and arrogance.]

Day 34

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
HE WHO *HEARS MY WORD AND*
BELIEVES HIM WHO SENT ME
HAS ETERNAL LIFE AND
DOES NOT COME INTO JUDGMENT
BUT PASSES OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE.
John 5: 24**

[There is a lot written in scripture about serving God. However, many things must be realized if we are to understand Divine service.

First, God does not need our service. God lacks for nothing and certainly nothing that we could possibly provide.

Second, service is not a way to earn or to gain freedom from our ego-centredness. True service is surely not something humans can perform independent of God. Freedom from selfishness is a gift of other-centredness given by God in Love for all.

Third, Divine service involves Pure Otherness which is also only a God given gift. Eternal life is not a reward for service, Divine or human, but the experience of a richer life lived in other-centred service.

Fourth, the whole of our lives is not to be taken up in Divine service. God gives us all a freedom to be human. We mainly have self-centred relationships with others and with ourselves. Enlightened self-interest is shared self-interest and shared other interest. However, other-interestedness is not the same as other-centredness.

Fifth, in service we experience a depth and a breadth of life that is unavailable in any other way. Divine service is performed only in response to God's Will of Pure Otherness. In Pure Otherness, there is no ego self to deny.

I doubt that many of us think of eternal life in terms of serving, selflessly.]

Day 35

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP.
John 10: 7**

[I doubt that we sheep have much sense about life. Even our survival skills are extremely limited. However, the Lord is our shepherd. He knows our emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical situation and accounts for our comings and goings constantly.]

Day 36

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
YOU WILL WEEP AND LAMENT
BUT THE WORLD WILL REJOICE;
YOU WILL GRIEVE
BUT YOUR GRIEF WILL BE TURNED TO JOY.
John 16: 20**

[The current moral goal of the world seems to be enlightened self-interest. It's rather like driving down the highway of life while conscious of the rules of the road. We are allowed to act out our own interests and concerns as long as we do not interfere with others (too much). We may even choose to help others in distress hoping that others might do the same for us.

Yet the problem with enlightened self-interest is that it is still self-interest. Self-interest inevitably leads to conflict whether we admit it or not. The greater the self-interests are, the greater the conflicts. Accidental or deliberate, the results range from disappointment to despair.

When push comes to shove, putting others first is not a choice. It is a gift. I doubt that the significance of that gift is realized or possibly even acknowledged unless or until the gift is responded to.]

Day 37

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
UNLESS ONE IS BORN OF WATER
AND OF THE SPIRIT,
ONE CANNOT ENTER INTO GOD'S *KINGDOM*.
John 3: 5**

[We greatly value our spiritual (re)birth for the opportunity to enter into God's kingdom. Stepping out of our ego-centredness and into the concerns, interests and joys of others is a truly expansive experience. However, I doubt that we suddenly become or should even seek to become spiritual beings.

Perhaps Jesus is reminding us that we remain physical animals even as we become spiritual creatures. The Holy Spirit can re-centre us but we remain human beings. Lack of personal individuality is not an option. As individuals, we now get to experience the possibility of continual recreation.]

Day 38

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
UNLESS YOU EAT THE FLESH
AND DRINK THE BLOOD
OF THE SON OF MAN
YOU HAVE NO *LIFE* IN YOURSELVES.
John 6:53**

[This statement is for me one of the most difficult sayings in scripture. Many take the words quite literally. Some take its meaning to be only symbolic. I doubt that either human attempts to understand come even close to the Divine message.

It is an act to be done in remembrance of Love, in gratitude for Love and in dedication to Love.

The Bread of Life, the Word of God, is our spiritual food. The Wine of His life's Blood, Divine service, was poured out for our lives. I regard the statement as a call of Love to participation. We need the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit in order to experience a new life in Love, to respond in selfless service.]

Day 39

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
IT IS NOT *MOSES* WHO HAS GIVEN YOU
THE BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN
BUT IT IS *MY FATHER*
WHO HAS GIVEN YOU
THE TRUE BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN.
John 6: 32**

[Through Moses came the Divine Laws. These are Laws that the Hebrew people have never been able to follow. Through Christ came the Divine Commandments. These are commandments that Christians have never been able to live up to. I doubt that human beings on their own are capable of following either. Divine Will is Love fulfilled.

Had Christ not lived and died, I doubt that we could ever have imagined the potential of Love.]

Day 40

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
WE SPEAK OF WHAT WE *KNOW* AND
TESTIFY OF WHAT WE HAVE SEEN AND
YOU DO *NOT* ACCEPT OUR TESTIMONY.
John 3: 11**

[Even Absolute Truth is not obvious to the human heart, soul, mind or might. Even a record of signs and wonders, miracles and parables, is not enough to convince us of improbabilities. We need proof positive. Knowing our weaknesses, God in His mercy provides us with the necessary Presence of His Love.

There is Peace beyond understanding, Love beyond knowledge, Faith beyond expressing, Will beyond intending, Joy beyond imagining. We rest secure, assured of His Absolute Truth, Goodness and Love.

The Absolute is far beyond our comprehension but not beyond confrontation and affirmation.

It is not enough to doubt our doubts. We can be given conscious awareness of otherness and even Pure Otherness anytime, anywhere God wills.]

Day 41

**TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU
WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER
YOU USED TO GIRD YOURSELF
AND WALK WHEREVER YOU WISHED,
BUT WHEN YOU GROW *OLD*,
YOU WILL STRETCH OUT YOUR HANDS
AND SOMEONE ELSE WILL GIRD YOU AND
BRING YOU WHERE YOU DO NOT WISH TO GO.**

John 21: 18

[Christ reminds us of our transience, our insignificance and our willful ignorance. I doubt that many of us anticipate our old age. However, if we learn to accept what is inevitable, we may learn to discover something of the value of God's ways. At some point in our lives, we may discover that we need to be led again as children. The complexities of life are overwhelming and they escalate during our lifetime. We need guiding principles and a helping hand if we are to enjoy or benefit from the experience. He leads us all out of ego-centredness and into other-centredness. We need to evolve.]

Day 42

**FROM NOW ON I AM TELLING YOU
BEFORE IT COMES TO *PASS*
SO THAT WHEN IT DOES OCCUR,
YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT I AM HE.
John 13: 19 (1 Corinthians 14: 1)**

[Divine prophecies are fulfilled. Prophecy is truly an amazing gift.
All Divine prophecies may relate to selfless Love. I doubt that human
prophecies amount to much.]

Day 43

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
IF YOU ASK ANYTHING IN MY NAME
HE WILL GIVE IT TO YOU.**

John 14: 14

[Like spoiled children, we may ask for many things out of ego-centredness. Yet, the Father may only be Willing to fulfill things asked for in the name of Love. In fact, the reason we ask for things in the name of Love is because the Father is already giving them. God knows what is best for us even before we ask. We ask in gratitude and conscious awareness.

I doubt that God fulfills much that is asked for out of self-interest. God gives us self-centred life and freedom to live out that life to the best of our abilities. However, God also offers us other-centred life and the abundance of a new life of Love.]

Day 44

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
HE WHO DOES NOT ENTER THE DOOR
INTO THE FOLD OF THE SHEEP
BUT COMES IN BY SOME OTHER WAY,
HE IS A THIEF AND A ROBBER.
John 10: 1**

[In any day and age, there are many who want to lead the sheep and the sheep want to be led. Most leaders are all too human and have only selfish motives in their hearts and minds. They would steal the sheep blind. However, a few rulers are less self-centred. They are ruled by enlightened self-interest. They can better respond to Love and the needs of the sheep.

I doubt that there is any new door into humanity's future other than through selflessness.]

Day 45

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
EVERYONE WHO COMMITS SIN
IS A SLAVE TO SIN.**

John 8: 34

[We all share the same sin. Why are we all so very ego-centred? Each of us must mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually process all of our own unique experiences. Even when we accept preprocessed information, we still have to reprocess it for ourselves. While this processing gives us our window on the world, about one another and into ourselves, it also cuts us off from any direct conscious awareness. All of our experience is from a personal reflective perspective. We are all ego-centred processors, ego story tellers.

Fortunately, God is, and can be much, much more than a part of our processing. For the sake of human freedom, God refuses to do all of our processing with us. However, when it comes to selfless Love, no Love for the world or for others or for oneself or for God takes place without the Love of Pure Otherness.

Until we process in response to and with Pure Otherness, we are slaves to our own unique personal reflective perspective. Pure Otherness frees us to value Otherness and otherness more highly than ourselves. How does Pure Otherness do this? It is a miraculous, mysterious gift of the Holy Spirit.

Nonsense you might say. Can we not value otherness from a personal reflective perspective? Ask yourself this: why would we?

Even if we could imagine valuing others and Otherness more highly than ourselves, I doubt that we would want to do it from a personal processing perspective. Why would I? Why would I want to?

To see and to Love the beauty of otherness in itself and for itself in all

its multiplicity, is a gift of great joy. Then again, all of our processing is a gift of incredible beauty and joy.]

Day 46

***TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
THAT ONE OF YOU WILL BETRAY ME.
John 13: 21***

[Any one of the disciples could have betrayed Christ. They were all simply human beings who all abandoned Him on the night He was betrayed. When Christ does not serve our emotional or spiritual or intellectual or physical needs as we see them, we abandon Him. Yet, He alone has the words of eternal life. He alone has the way out of ego-centredness. He alone has the purpose and the power of Love. He alone is the way and will, and has the word and work of Pure Otherness.

I doubt that our transient, insignificant, ignorant, arrogant egos care one bit for selflessness, let alone self-sacrifice.]

Day 47

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS
INTO THE EARTH AND DIES,
IT WILL REMAIN ALONE,
BUT IF IT DIES, IT BEARS MUCH FRUIT.
John 12: 24**

[The one thing the lonely and the isolated need to change is ego-centredness. Even those individuals who are immensely successful intellectually, emotionally, physically or spiritually are no joy to be with if they only care about themselves. Yet, the overcoming of egoism isn't automatic and it can't be faked. It is a gift; it is a response. We must die to self and learn to reach out to others selflessly.

Fear of any threat to one's ego is probably the greatest deterrent to selflessness. It is only when we truly face death and see just how transient, insignificant and ignorant our view of ourselves is that we can be changed. Of course, the ultimate inevitable threat may make us even more ego-centred but it can also force us to submit to death and to reach out.

Reaching out is in fact a response rather than a self-initiated act. One responds in selflessness to Otherness. I doubt that there is any other way out of ego-centredness.

I doubt that there is any other death than the death of egoism to be feared.]

Day 48

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
AN HOUR IS COMING AND NOW IS,
WHEN THE DEAD WILL HEAR THE *VOICE* OF
THE SON OF GOD
AND THOSE WHO HEAR WILL LIVE.
John 5: 25**

[Jesus speaks to each one of us, now and again and again and again. At some point, He is able to help us to realize that there is so much more to life than what we are able to experience on our own. From that point on, we either experience a more abundant life or we are restless until we do. In Him is our infinite Love and our unending Peace and our eternal Truth and our timeless Trust.

We are free to deny that fact and we often do. Yet, having once experienced life beyond our ego-centredness, I doubt that there is any actual turning back. Life with and for others is the only life worth living. All else is selfism, selfishness, solipsism, ego-centredness.]

Day 49

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
HE *WHO* BELIEVES IN ME,
THE *WORKS* THAT I DO,
HE *WILL* DO ALSO AND
GREATER WORKS THAN THESE
HE *WILL* DO
BECAUSE I GO TO THE FATHER.
John 14: 12**

[Typically, we all act out of self-interest. First, we act to survive and then we act to become. Yet, before long we are taught and most of us learn that self-interested acts are to be shared. Cooperating selves accomplish far more than conflicting selves. One must act out of and towards mutual self-interest or suffer painful consequences. Nevertheless, self-initiated acts have their limitations.

Certain selfless acts are far more constructive than all acts of mutual self-interest. Self-interested acts, even mutual self-interested acts, are very narrow in scope. Other-centred acts are less limited, even unlimited in scope. Such acts can only be performed in response to Pure Otherness.

There is no greater Love than a love for Pure Otherness and others. Such loving responsive acts are not willed but enabled. Physical, intellectual, spiritual and emotional otherness is very real, unlike our egos. Our own thoughts, values, emotions and even our bodies are forms of otherness. Egoism cannot last, but selflessness may live on with Otherness.

I doubt that you or I can even imagine an act in response to Pure Otherness. Yet, they occur continually. The whole of creation responds to the Love of God.]

Day 50

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
HE WHO RECEIVES
WHOMEVER (Person X) I SEND
RECEIVES ME
AND HE WHO RECEIVES ME
RECEIVES HIM WHO SENT ME.
John 13: 20**

[Receiving can be just as much an act of loving as giving. Christ can be as much in the coming in as in the going out. I doubt that we will often recognize Pure Otherness in otherness. Yet, Love comes and goes among us. Love comes to us and goes out through us to others.]

Day 51

**TRULY, TRULY, I SAY TO YOU
YOU SEEK ME
NOT BECAUSE YOU SAW SIGNS
BUT BECAUSE YOU ATE
THE LOAVES AND WERE FILLED
John 6: 26**

[We seek God for the basics but God offers us so much more. We ask out of ego-centred concerns and interests. God offers us glimpses into the whole of creation.

God provides for our needs but God also grants us an abundant new life of love and joy.

I doubt that we would reach beyond creaturely comforts if God did not prod us and inspire us with a Love of otherness.]

Day 52

**JESUS SAID TO HER, DID I NOT SAY TO YOU
THAT IF YOU BELIEVE,
YOU WILL SEE THE GLORY OF GOD?**

**LAZARUS COME FORTH.
John 11: 40, 43**

[Once again we have evidence that human reflection often results in backward understandings. We say that seeing is believing when we want to assert a truth. However, Jesus tells us that believing can precede seeing in the case of profound truths, prophecies of the Holy Spirit.

How can we believe in that which we cannot see? How can we not believe in many possible outcomes? There is so very much for which we have no explanation. I doubt that we will ever catch up with our expanding ignorance.]

More days of the Son:

WHOM DO PEOPLE SAY THAT I AM?

WHOM DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

Day 53

THE ALPHA – ALL AUTHORITY

**GOD IS ALIVE
AND ON
UP AHEAD.**

**CHRIST IS ALPHA
THE NEW HUMAN
AND AMEN.**

**GOD’S ACTS
ARE AMAZING
AND
GOD’S ANSWERS
ARE SURE.**

**GOD TREATS
ALL ALIKE.**

**CHRIST’S COMMANDMENTS
ARE FOR ALL.**

[Which is more important, that we know the Absolute or that the Absolute knows us? God knows each of us far better than we know ourselves. To know that we are known is an act of Pure Otherness. We know that we are known when we realize that we are led and guided and cared for unconditionally.

Have we considered human equality in the light of God’s Love? Egos

are unequal by any standard. Enlightened egos are unequal by any standard. Ego die and are quickly forgotten. Agents may be made equal by Pure Otherness. Agency may help us to understand God's fairness.

Divine Love is not usually concerned to help us with our human fictions. God's Will is distinct from human will. God's Will concerns our radical growth and development in love. Divine Love makes it possible for us to live with ever greater awareness and appreciation of otherness.

To live is to grow. I doubt that we ever stop growing.]

**GOD ALLOWED
CHRIST’S BODY
TO BE BROKEN
AS THE BREAD
OF LIFE AND
CHRIST’S BLOOD
TO BE BLED
AS GOD’S BOND
OF LOVE
SO THAT WE
COULD BE
MADE TO OBEY.**

[Being at peace with our shortcomings, knowing that we follow after Pure Otherness. God alone can turn the greatest tragedy into the fullest triumph. Divine Love made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that we might make even minor self-sacrifices. Divine Love finds ways to lead us out of ego-centredness and towards other-centredness.

I doubt that there is a more positive feeling, thought, belief or strength than knowing that we can follow Pure Otherness anywhere and at any time.]

**LOVE'S
CLEAR
CONCISE
COHERENT
CONSISTENT
COMPREHENSIVE
AND CONSEQUENTIAL
COMMUNICATION:
CHRIST CARES
FOR GOD'S CREATION.**

**CHRIST CAN MAKE
GOD'S KINGDOM
CENTRAL TO
OUR CONCERNS.**

**GOD'S COMMANDMENTS
ARE GOD'S COMMITMENT.**

[We presume far too much when we try to take on the work of Pure Otherness. I may be presuming too much with this current work. Divine Love will determine and let us know what we can do concerning other-centredness.

I doubt that any of our emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical elites can find any other way to experience other-centredness. We are all locked into ego-centredness until we are released from time to time by Love.]

Day 56

THE DOOR – DEATH DEFEATED

**GOD DIED
TO DESTROY
OUR DEMONS
AND TO
DELIVER US
FROM EVIL.**

**GOD’S DEATH IS OUR DEATH,
GOD’S LOVE, OUR LIFE.**

**GOD IS THE
DIVINE DOOR
OF OUR
DELIVERANCE.**

**AS WE ARE
FORGIVEN AND
FREED OF SELF-
CENTREDNESS,
DO NOT DOUBT
THAT WE CAN DO
AS GOD IS DOING.**

[What is other-centredness? Other-centredness is the conscious awareness of everything that is not ego-centred. However, a major problem for human beings is that everything is ego-centred until we realize that the ego-self is largely a fictional story that we tell ourselves about who we are. Yet, it is not hard to imagine that there could be some non-fictional aspects to our experience. After all we are individually morally responsible for the stories we freely tell ourselves. The world then becomes populated with individual consciously aware

non-fictional, morally responsible storytellers.

Conscious awareness of oneself is the pre-reflective direct experience of non-ego individuality or agency. Other-centredness can be the conscious awareness of the possibility of other egos and non-egoistic selves. This can lead to shared conscious content of a limited shared perspective. All ego-selves can be regarded as fictional. Egos are nothing but the vastly incomplete stories we tell ourselves about who we are. Consequently ego-self-interest and enlightened ego-self-interest is already as good as dead and forgotten. We only attempt to preserve these stories to try or try not to relive them.

I doubt that there is anything human of greater practical importance than conscious awareness. I doubt that Pure Otherness allows the destruction of the conscious awareness of love.]

**ONLY GOD
IS ETERNAL;
EMMANUEL
IS EVERLASTING;
LOVE-LIFE-LIGHT
IS ENDLESS.**

**GOD TRANSFORMS
OUR ENDLESS
DARKNESS INTO
EVERLASTING
LIGHT.**

**GOD’S ETERNAL LOVE
IS ESSENTIAL
IN TYING
EVERYTHING
TOGETHER:
EVERYONE
IS MADE
EQUAL.**

[We are all equally ego-centric, egoistic.

Individual conscious awareness is an independent love of life. Conscious awareness is individual, emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical experience. However, the ego-self must die in order that independent conscious awareness can become so much more than egoism.

Other-centredness can also continue individually as long as there is conscious awareness. There can be immense meaning and satisfaction

in caring for conscious awareness in all of its possible forms. The destruction of conscious awareness would be the destruction of possible shared conscious content.

Pure Otherness shows us a radically different form of conscious awareness. When Pure Otherness says “I AM,” Pure Otherness does not speak of an ego-self but of a Relational Selflessness. Unlike creation, Pure Otherness is completely other-centred. Pure Otherness needs nothing but makes everything possible.

Pure Otherness teaches us where our love of life comes from. I doubt that we could love another’s life if Pure Otherness didn’t awaken, restore and renew our individual other-centredness.]

Day 58

THE FIRST – FAITHFUL FRIEND

**OUR FATHER’S
PURPOSE IS
FIRST AND
FINAL.**

**IN FAITH CHRIST
CALLS GOD FATHER
AND US, FRIENDS.**

**GOD IS
FAIR:
GOD HAS NO
FAVOURITES.**

[To see our lives solely in terms of conscious awareness gives rise to a new experience. Our individual conscious awareness gives expression to the unique configuration of our personal conscious awareness. Suddenly, the creation and expression of the ego-self can have little or no significance. Yet, individual awareness is beyond value.

We call upon the conscious awareness of others to share the conscious content of their experience. They tell us that all that they can be sure of is their own individual conscious awareness of similar personal conscious awareness. This conscious awareness can be directed or distorted or disturbed or withdrawn. However, conscious awareness cannot be denied.

If conscious awareness and shared conscious awareness is all that truly exists for any of us and for all of us, then conscious awareness could be virtually the same whenever and wherever it occurs. Conscious

awareness is the given.

I doubt that we have more than just begun to examine and to express the significance of conscious awareness.]

Day 59

THE GOSPEL – GOD’S GLORY

**GOD IS GREAT,
GOD IS GOOD,
GLORY BE
TO GOD.**

**LIFE, LIGHT AND
LOVE ARE
GIFTS OF GOD.**

**GIVE THANKS
TO OUR
GLORIOUS GOD
FOR GOD’S
UNSPEAKABLY
GENEROUS GIFTS.**

**GOD’S AGREEMENTS
COME WITH
GOD GIVEN
GUARANTEES.**

[I doubt that God who gives us conscious awareness could be anything but Good and Caring and Deliberate and Delighted. God can excite and extend and expand our conscious awareness indefinitely. Extreme pain and suffering as well as death can certainly draw our attention to the significance of conscious awareness and the insignificance of the ego-self.

We can sharpen, share and shut down our own conscious awareness and the conscious awareness of others.

A secular view of experience is that humanity is just a stage in the evolution of conscious awareness. A sacred view is that Love enters into our experience and stays within as a separate individuality. The secular view is reductive while the sacred view is expansive. The reductive view can only express itself. The expansive view can only respond to other-centredness.]

Day 6o

THE HOPE – GOD’S HUMILITY

**IN HOLY
HUMILITY
GOD HONOURS
GOD.**

**GOD HAS
A HOLD
OF BOTH
HEAVEN
AND
HELL.**

**GOD’S HEALING
AND GOD’S HELP
ARE
OUR HOPE
AND
HAPPINESS.**

[What can we hope for? Through consciousness awareness we become aware of human individuality. Hopefully, through conscious awareness we can be awakened to God the Giver of life, light and love.

The ego-self can reflect responses that are emotional or intellectual or physical or spiritual. One can become focused on any or several of these aspects of human experience. However, God’s Love, Peace, Truth and Will calls forth a total emotional and a total intellectual and a total physical and a total spiritual response.

I doubt that God can be known through any other experience than a total response of Love to Pure Otherness. Since a response to God is complete, the total response can be an act of confidence. A total response is not an achievement. A total response is not self-serving. A total response is a God inspired gift.]

Day 61

**THE INCARNATE I AM – INCARNATE
INSPIRATION**

**GOD
IS IN
CHRIST,
CHRIST
IS IN
US.**

**GOD
INSPIRES
GOD’S
HUMAN
IMAGE.**

**GOD’S LOVE
IS A DIVINE
INVITATION
FOR HUMAN
INVOLVEMENT.**

**[IMMANUEL IS
INCREDIBLY
IN ISRAEL ...
AND IN ALL
OTHER
NATIONS.]**

[The Glory of God is completely inspiring. I doubt that we can inter-

pret the experience except as a response to Pure Otherness. Reflected human responses are partial and exclusive but a Divine response is absolute and inclusive.]

Day 62

JESUS – THE JUST JUDGE

**JESUS
A JEW
OF JUDAH
WENT UP TO
JERUSALEM
TO JUDGE
BOTH JEWS
AND GENTILES.**

**GOD’S JUDGMENTS
ARE JUST
AND
GOD’S JOY
IS GENUINE.**

**JEWS AND
GENTILES
SHARING
THE VERY
SAME JOY.**

[Jesus judges our ego-centredness that we might respond with the joy of well being to unconditional Love. Other-centredness begins with God whether we realize it or not. Even if we fail to acknowledge Love, that does not diminish the fruits of the Spirit of Pure Otherness. Joy can overwhelm us wherever and whenever we are.

I doubt that anyone would refuse to respond to joy. I doubt that anyone would deny a response of sheer joy.]

Day 63

THE KING – KINGDOM OF KINDNESS

**CHRIST IS THE
CORNER STONE
AND THE KEY TO
GOD’S KINGDOM
OF WONDERFUL
KINDNESS.**

**GOD
KEEP
US SAFE
FROM THE
KIND OF EVIL
THAT WOULD KILL
THE KING OF KINGS.**

**THY KINGDOM COME,
THY WILL BE DONE.**

[What about a genuine fear, even terror, at the loss of conscious awareness? We did not exist and now for a time we truly are alive. Individual conscious awareness can be such a marvelous experience that is re-awakened each day. Loss of life is such a terrible thing because conscious awareness can be such a wonderful thing. Individuality matters ... until it doesn't. There may come a time or a place when we realize that individuality is far too limiting an experience.

Though a fear of the loss of life can be truly terrifying, the fear of not belonging can be even more devastating. If one begins to feel that one does not belong here and now, one may begin to wonder if one should

move on.

Individuals can travel the world trying to discover where they belong or whom they belong with. Yet, belonging is a response. The Kingdom of Pure Otherness is about belonging. The Kingdom of Heaven is a total response.

I doubt that we belong anywhere other than in the Kingdom of Kindness.]

Day 64

THE LORD – LIGHT OF LIFE

**LORD OF LORDS,
LION OF JUDAH,
LAMB OF GOD
LEAD US.**

**YOUR LAWS
OF LOVE
LEAD TO
ETERNAL LIFE.**

**WE TRULY LIVE
BY THE LIGHT
OF LOVE’S LAWS.**

**LOVE GOD,
THE LORD OF LOVE;
LOVE NEIGHBOURS
IN NEED OF LOVE;
LOVE EVERY ENEMY
IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE.**

[We can say words that have been given to us without our having a clue as to their true meaning. Yet, within the message is an inkling of their truth: the Laws of Love are absolute.

Pain and suffering are real and even the threat of them can dull or intensify the conscious awareness of individuality. However, Love outlasts pain, suffering and conscious awareness.

Love is other-centred. I doubt that each one of us is much more than individual conscious awareness. Yet, individuality gives way to relationship between and among otherness.

Relationship is as real as individuality. It is among relationships that the Laws of Love preside. Fortunately, we can even learn to relate to ourselves.]

**GOD MAKES
THE WAY SMOOTH
FOR THE MYSTERY,
MERCY AND MIGHT
OF CHRIST’S MESSAGE.**

**MIRACULOUS MESSAGE,
MARVELLOUS LIGHT,
MORNING STAR.**

**THE MIRACLE
OF NEW LIFE
PROVES
GOD’S MESSAGE
TRUE.**

**THE FULL MEASURE
OF GOD’S MERCY
SPEAKS OF
GOD’S MAJESTY.**

[What is this new life? It may begin with nothing but the shedding of the old ego. Yet, that ego must be shed again and again and again. We continue to tell the story of who we think we are. Even shedding the ego daily seems hardly enough.

I doubt that the Laws of Love have much to do with ego-selves or self-centredness or even enlightened self-interest. The Laws of Love concern individuality, agency, other-centredness and relationships. Unless and until we can get beyond our ego-selves, we will remain largely ignorant of other-centredness.

If and when we do see beyond the ego-self to agency, we must guard against trying to over interpret the experience of conscious awareness. Individuality is largely pre-reflective and post-reflective individual experience. Solipsism or stoicism or pantheism or mysticism can be seductive if one tries to over-interpret individual conscious awareness.

I doubt that there is a more fundamental experience than the uninterpreted experience of a selfless individual's conscious awareness. That agency is already the experience of otherness. That awareness may be the basis for agency self-sacrifice.]

Day 66

THE NAZARENE. – NEW KNOWLEDGE

**GOD
MAKES
ALL
THINGS
NEW:**

**A NEW AGREEMENT
A NEW BIRTH
A NEW COMMANDMENT
A NEW DAY
A NEW EARTH
A NEW FAITH
A NEW GOOD
A NEW HEAVEN
A NEW INNOCENCE
A NEW JERUSALEM
A NEW KINGDOM
A NEW LAW
A NEW HUMAN
A NEW NATION
A NEW OBEDIENCE
A NEW PEOPLE
A NEW QUESTION
A NEW RIGHT
A NEW SELF
A NEW TEMPLE
A NEW UNION
A NEW VOICE
A NEW WAY
A NEW EXPERIENCE
A NEW YES
A NEW ZEAL**

**GOD KNOWS
AND MEETS
OUR NEEDS
LIKE NO OTHER.**

[The truly new is the humanly unimaginable. Humanity can probably now actualize whatever humanity can imagine. Yet, physical, intellectual, spiritual and emotional laws govern the imagination. I doubt that we would believe that Love is restricted by laws that govern human imagination. Divine Love is the Giver of Eternal Laws.]

Day 67

THE OMEGA – THE ONLY ONE

**ONE SPIRIT OF LOVE
ONE LORD OF LIFE
ONE HOPE OF TRUTH
ONE GOD, OUR FATHER
ONE FAITH IN GOD’S KINGDOM
ONE DEATH AND DELIVERANCE
ONE BAPTISM INTO CHRIST’S BODY.**

**ONLY THE FATHER
CREATES NEW LIFE;
ONLY THE SON
REVEALS NEW LIFE;
ONLY THE SPIRIT
GIVES NEW LIFE.**

**ONLY ONE LOVE,
THE LIGHT OF LIFE,
IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.**

[God is Wholly One quite apart from humanity. If we attempt to make God and humanity one, we either reject God in favour of an expansive humanity or we reject humanity in favour of an overwhelming divinity. Divine Love restores our true humanity by revealing God’s true Divinity.

A merely imagined human form of divinity is exaggerated self-interest. Pure Otherness awakens us to an other-centred humanity. Pure Otherness awakens us to the Glory of God. We must stop rejecting our humanity and God’s divinity.

I doubt that we can experience true individual conscious awareness until we acknowledge and are enabled to respond to Pure Otherness.]

Day 68

THE PRICE – PERFECT PEACE

**HUMBLY, GOD’S PEOPLE
PRAISE GOD’S PURPOSE,
PROMISE AND POWER.**

**GOD ALONE PAID
A GREAT PRICE
TO MAKE PEACE.**

**THE POWER OF
THE LOVE OF GOD
WILL PROTECT YOU
AND GIVE YOU
GOD’S PEACE.**

**THE PRESENCE
OF GOD’S PURE LOVE
IS PROOF POSITIVE.**

**GOD TELLS OF GOD’S TRUTH,
GOD’S BEING, GOD’S LOVE
GOD’S PRESENCE, GOD’S POWER.**

[With the Incarnation, God gave and continues to give ever greater value to individual conscious awareness. Perfect peace is the realization that our human individuality is of value. Such value can’t be earned. It is created, acknowledged and preserved. Perfect peace involves us in the creation, acknowledgement and preservation of

individual conscious awareness.

Pure Otherness teaches us to value what God values in us and in others. I doubt that we could create, acknowledge and preserve a fuller value for our humanity than God's provides.]

Day 69

THE QUESTIONER – QUASI QUESTIONS

**AM I WHOM
OTHER SAY
I AM?**

**WITH WHAT WILL WE
COMPARE GOD’S KINGDOM?**

**CAN YOU RECEIVE
MY SPIRIT
AND PERFORM
MY SERVICE?**

**DO YOU NOT ERR
KNOWING NEITHER
SCRIPTURE NOR
THE POWER OF GOD?**

**DO YOU KNOW
WHAT I HAVE DONE?**

[We may think that we question ideas about God. Yet, this is another example of our backward reflective thinking. It is Pure Otherness Who continually questions our awareness of God. We need to be prodded and directed to inquire further. God questions us about our search and our quest. God questions our preparations and our readiness. God questions our responsiveness.

Are we aware of the Activity, Power, Message, Service, Spirit, Kingdom, Incarnation of Pure Otherness? God will continue to question us because Love alone is the answer to Love's questions. God alone can question and answer us infinitely and absolutely.

I doubt that we would even know where or when or how or why or whether to begin. Yet, WHO I AM leads us answer by answer, question by question forever and ever.]

Day 70

THE RESURRECTION – RIGHT RELATIONSHIP

**GOD IS OUR
RIGHTFUL RULER.**

**GOD TEACHES US
RIGHT FROM WRONG
BY REVEALING
GOD’S RULE.**

**WE ARE
RANSOMED, RESCUED,
REDEEMED, RAISED,
REFINED AND RULED
BY GOD’S LOVE,
OUR RICH REWARD.**

**REFUSED RESPECT,
THE REJECTED ROCK
REVEALS GOD’S RULE.**

**REQUEST AND
RECEIVE OUR
FATHER’S FAITH.**

[At best, we experience what is, has been and will be. At worst, we never become aware of Love in our lives. The ego-self may acknowledge love but only in a most distorted way as if somehow one controls Love. Divine Love, on the contrary, rules us.]

Divine Love sets the limits and Love gradually lifts the limits of our experience. We have freedoms but not endless free will. We have a little understanding but hardly enough even to survive. We can exercise our imaginations without the slightest idea what will or won't prove to be possible. We confuse our need with our wants and our wants with our desires. We tend to forget that we are mere humans. Divine Love remembers and reminds us.

I doubt that God leaves anything entirely up to us except perhaps our foolish habit of resisting Love. When will we learn that response need not be a restriction but a liberation?]

Day 71

THE SON – THE SUFFERING SERVANT

**SCRIPTURE SAYS
GOD SENT THE SON**

**GOD SENT THE SON
TO SAVE US**

**TO SAVE US
FROM OURSELVES.**

**ONLY GOD’S SPIRIT
CAN GIVE US
A NEW LIFE
OF SERVICE.**

**THE SPIRIT OF GOD
MAKES US SURE
THAT SOMEDAY
WE WILL BE
SET FREE FROM
SELF-CENTEREDNESS.**

**GOD SENDS
THE SPIRIT
OF THE SON
INTO OUR HEARTS.**

[I doubt that an egoless individual is either male or female. There can be no doubt that our egos have genders. However, conscious aware-

ness is merely conscious awareness, agency is agency, within whatever environment and circumstances.

The love of other-centredness is an experience of and a love for individual selfless conscious awareness and agency in oneself and in all others.]

Day 72

THE TEACHER – TIME TESTED TRUTHS?

**GOD TEACHES US
TO TURN
TO GOD
TO LEARN
THE TRUTH.**

**LOVE TIES
EVERYTHING
TOGETHER.**

**PEOPLE MUST
BE TAUGHT
TO TURN
TO GOD.**

**GOD IS
TRUTHFUL,
TRULY HOLY,
TRUSTWORTHY.**

**GOD'S BODY IS OUR TEMPLE,
OUR BODY IS GOD'S TEMPLE.**

[Yes, Love sets our limits, but Love also establishes our ultimate values. How would we know that we had limits unless the Absolute informed us? How would we know what was of greater value in our lives unless we were drawn towards God?

We can experience beauty and goodness and love and truth in our lives but God is the source of ever greater Good and Truth and Beauty and Love in creation.

I doubt that ugliness and evil and hatred and lies are anything other than distortions of conscious awareness by the ego-self. Whatever threatens our ego is regarded as negative. Whatever confronts our individuality is positively other, especially Pure Otherness.]

Day 73

THE UNION – AN UNSHAKEABLE UNION

**UNKNOWN,
UNFAIR?
UNLESS,
UNTIL.**

**GOD’S SPIRIT
UNITES US
IN PEACE
WITH
KINDNESS AND
UNDERSTANDING.**

**HUMANITY IS
NO LONGER UNFIT,
NO LONGER UNCLEAN.**

**YOU NOW
UNITE US
IN PEACE,
IN LOVE,
IN TRUTH.**

[We are somewhat and sometimes united in outlook: common thoughts, values, actions, attitudes. However, our perspectives are fragmentary and subject to change as we age and gain different experiences. We may end up sharing more disagreements than agreements. Peace and truth and trust and love can seem a long, long ways away.]

Yet, we are confronted by an unchanging Absolute Whose Message, Action, Promise and Power never vary. Divine Love has the power to do what God Wills endlessly. Pure Otherness is always other-centred. However, only when we have been granted an experience of other-centredness can we even begin to appreciate Pure Otherness.

Those who share in a Divine outlook know something of Love, Peace, Truth and Faith. Relationship is relatedness. I doubt that there is a greater joy than relatedness, unless it is relatedness restored.]

**THE SHEEP KNOW
THE SHEPHERD'S
VOICE.**

**DON'T CONFUSE
HUMAN VERSE
WITH GOD'S VOICE.**

**GOD IS
THE VINE,
THE TRUE VINE.**

**THE VOICE
FROM A CLOUD
OF DARKNESS,
A VOICE
FROM HEAVEN,
GOD'S VOICE
AT THE DOOR
OF OUR HEARTS.**

[We hear voices. We hear the voice of a reflected ego most loudly and persistently. It can be a voice of common sense and of reason. However, our needs, wants and desires also have a strong say, frequently the stronger say. The voice of conscience is much quieter until aroused by a serious threat to ourselves and possibly to others. There is yet another helpful voice that is rarely insistent but always there, pointing out the loved and the admired, the beautiful and the great, the true and the enduring, the good and the highly valued.

There are still other voices to hear and possibly to heed. Our family,

past or present, friends, near or far, those in authority and those under our care, speak to us frequently. There are the intrusive or unintrusive voices of strangers, of acquaintances, fellow travellers. Many, many voices vie for our attention each day.

God, being Love, can enter into any of those voices or others in nature. However, Love's Voice has a clarity, a conciseness, a consistency, a coherence, a comprehensiveness and a consequentiality all Love's own. God utters loving commandments to the heart and head, to the body and soul. God's commandments are absolute but not necessarily immediate. It is up to us to discern the absolute nature of Love's authority. We will realize eventually that there is no other way forward. Sometimes we are blessed to see a joyful, gracious route ahead.

I doubt that the Voice of Pure Otherness can be confused with any other voice.]

Day 75

THE WORD – WONDERFUL WILL

**GOD IS
AT WORK
WITHIN US.**

**GOD WORKS
WONDERS
WHEN WE
ARE WEAK.**

**WE CAN
BE MADE
WILLING
AND ABLE
TO DO GOD’S
WILL.**

**LOVE IS
THE WAY
GOD’S WILL
WORKS.**

[Only Love can do God’s will. From time to time, Love may choose to work in and through us for the good of others. Those can be truly wonderful times. However, we don’t get to choose when to do God’s will. For much of our lives, we are allowed to live out our own humanity in freedom. We should not pretend always to be doing or even to be wanting to do Love’s work. Only Love does God’s work.]

I doubt that we even know when Love is using us at times. When will we learn that we do not tell Love what to do?]

Day 76

THE EXPERIENCE – EXCELLENT EXAMPLE

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

OFFSPRING OF GOD

OFFSPRING OF MAN

THE MESSIAH

WITHOUT SIN

OUR SAVIOUR

OUR CERTAINTY

THE CORNER STONE

A SPIRITUAL SACRIFICE

GOD’S OBEDIENT SLAVE

THE SUBJECT OF SCRIPTURE

THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

THE SOURCE OF ETERNAL LIFE

[When we are inclined to complain about our lot in life, maybe we should reconsider what Christ’s lot in life was and is and will be like.

What time and place could be totally beyond Love's time and place. If Love can live in our experience, then with Love's help we can too.

I doubt that we sense Christ's suffering or sense it often enough.]

Day 77

THE YES – YOUR YOKE

**YOUR AUTHORITATIVE ACTS
YOUR BURDEN OF BLESSINGS
YOUR COMPLETE COMMANDMENTS**

**YOUR DEMANDS OF DUTY
YOUR ETERNAL ENDURANCE
YOUR FAITHFUL FREEDOM**

**YOUR GRACIOUS GUIDANCE
YOUR HOPE AND HAPPINESS
YOUR INSTRUCTIVE INSIGHTS**

**YOUR JUST JUDGMENTS
YOUR KINGDOM OF KINDNESS
YOUR LOVING LEADERSHIP**

**YOUR MEANINGFUL MESSAGE
YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF NEW LIFE
YOUR OBVIOUS OBEDIENCE**

**YOUR POWER, PATIENCE AND PEACE
YOUR QUIET CONQUEST
YOUR RIGHTFUL RULE**

**YOUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE
YOUR TRUTHFUL TEACHINGS
YOUR UNQUESTIONABLE UNDERSTANDING**

**YOUR VICTORIOUS VOICE
YOUR WAY, YOUR WORD, YOUR WORK,
YOUR WILL
YOUR EXTRAORDINARY EXPLANATION**

**YOUR YES
OUR ZENITH'S ZERO.**

[The burden of others is the blessed yoke that Love offers us. We are laden down with endless riches to give others. We stagger under the load of goodness, truth and beauty. All we can say is yes and give thanks. All we can do is attempt to share our burden of blessings with others.

I doubt that we have even the slightest idea what new kindness Love will burden us with today and in the future.]

Day 78

OUR ZENITH – THE ZEALOT’S ZERO

Z X Y T

[We have been created, we have been seen, and we have been loved.

I doubt that we are to favour a fictitious ego over real other-centredness.]

[[OED and perhaps QED]]

Day 79

A Life Well Lived

Satisfaction in life is a life well led.
Some follow their hearts, while others their heads;
Some follow their strengths and still others their souls:
Loves, ideas, values and acts are their goals.

Satisfaction in life is a life well shared:
With hearts, souls, minds or bodies bared.
Yet few seem to realize that Love Itself fulfills
Those total responses that Love Itself Wills.

Satisfaction in life is a life well spent:
From moment to moment each second is Lent.
A life without any absolute stance:
Of transient, insignificant, ignorant arrogance.

Satisfaction in life is a life well left:
One where our hopes are not entirely bereft;
Yet health, striving, focus and balance let go
For a time and a space we still do not know.

Satisfaction in life is a life well loved:
With failures forgiven and hours and hours enjoyed
Satisfaction in life is a life well begun
Even as we gaze after the setting of the sun.
Thank You,
Heavenly Father, Holy Spirit and Beloved Son.

Days of Divine Love

Day 80

GENESIS

**IN THE BEGINNING
THERE WAS LOVE
AND THE LOVE
WAS A PROMISE
A PROMISE
OF LOVE**

**A LOVE THAT INFORMS,
A LOVE THAT REFORMS
A LOVE THAT TRANSFORMS**

**ONE IS SELF-CENTRED
UNTIL RE-CENTRED
BY LOVE.**

[Why do we doubt such Love? How can we comprehend such Love?
Love speaks to us in so many different Ways. We can try to respond to
Love's Word as Love's Work if it is Love's Will.]

Day 81

EXODUS

**THOUGH LAST
LOVE LEADS**

**FOLLOW
LOVE'S
LEAD**

**FREED,
LED
AND FED
BY
LOVE.**

[Our acts, our thoughts, our values and our feelings can bring us great pleasures or pain in life. Interacting with others and otherness can be extremely challenging and satisfying. I doubt that many ever try to get beyond these self-trials and self-satisfactions. Yet, Love's Will, Work, Word and Way alone can lead us to other-centeredness and Pure Otherness.]

Day 82

LEVITICUS

**LOVE DIRECTS US,
LOVE INSTRUCTS US,
LOVE LEADS US
TO LOVE OTHERS**

**IT IS
MORE BLESSED
BY LOVE
TO LOVE
THAN TO
BE LOVED
BY LOVE
AND TO
BE LOVED
BY LOVE
IS TO BE
TRULY BLESSED.**

[Even if I can doubt my own ego-centredness, I cannot doubt a more perfect otherness.

Even if I can disown my own selfishness, I cannot disown a more lasting otherness.

Even if I can distance my own self-centredness, I cannot distance the Love of Pure Otherness.]

Day 83

NUMBERS

**LOVE FINDS,
LOVE FREES,
AND
LOVE FOSTERS;
LOVE CRITICIZES
AND CORRECTS;
FORGIVES AND
REAFFIRMS**

**A WORK
OF GRACE
IS A GIFT
OF GOD.**

[We do not find God. We would have no idea even where to look for God. Divine Love can find us anytime, anywhere. We do not criticize God, Whom we do not even know. God corrects us, who are known by Love. God may give us gracious work to do but much more likely Love will help us to live more abundant human lives. I very much doubt that God intends to direct our lives in ways other than by Love.]

Day 84

DEUTERONOMY

**LOVE
IS A GIFT
CONCEALED
BUT BY THE LAW
REVEALED**

**LOVE COMMANDS
ARE LOVE
FULFILLED**

**DIVINE WILL
IS
DIVINE LOVE.**

[Divine Love alone fulfills Love's own commandments. Our love for God and our love for others is the Love of God. Divine Love is Absolute Truth.

I doubt that there is any other Absolute confronting us, calling us, correcting us and comforting us.]

Day 85

JOSHUA

**LIVE
BY THE LIGHT
OF LOVE'S
PROMISES;
LOVE'S PROMISES
ARE FULFILLED**

**WE ARE
CREATED
INCOMPLETE
BUT BY LOVE
FULFILLED**

**LIFE'S FULFILLMENT
IS TO LOVE.**

[To most humanists, these words are nothing but sentimental self-deception. Humanists strive to live authentic rational self-centred lives. However, since no one can know one's own true nature, humanists are the ones subject to self-deception. Much as they might like to peel away what appears to be unnatural, they remain the real storytellers of ego creation.

I suspect that suffering and death can be gracious acts leading to the gift of other awareness. Only when one has experienced the greater reality of otherness, can one hope to opt out of self-importance. Yet, I doubt that humility will quickly or easily prove to be more significant than pride.]

**ALL THAT LOVE
GIVES IS GOOD;
ALL THAT LOVE
ALLOWS IS NOT**

**NOT ONE
CAN LOVE
THE LOVE
OF LOVE**

**THE WAY
OF LOVE
BETRAYED,
DENIED,
FULFILLED.**

[God allows us self-centredness. It is our basic human nature. It is a rich existence in itself but it is a lesser existence. It is limited, shallow, narrow, confining, short-sighted and stifling.

God is Pure Otherness. To experience even the slightest gift of God's nature, we must be awakened to the possibility and the necessity of other-centredness.

God accepts the responsibility for our awakening to otherness. However, as we cannot manipulate God, God also does not usually compel us. Compulsion is contrary to other-centredness unless Love determines that we are in a good position to do God's will.

Divine Love sometimes awakens us through pain and suffering and

death, our own and that of others. We can and will ask why that is necessary. Yet, I doubt that we will ever be able to acknowledge God's Way except through the awakening to a greater Love and Peace and Truth and Joy.]

Day 87

RUTH

**MADE WILLING
BY LOVE
TO DO
LOVE'S WILL**

**TURNING AND
BEING TURNED
FROM SELF
TO ANOTHER
BY LOVE**

**YIELD
YOUR SELF
TO LOVE.**

[There are limits to human freedoms. I doubt that ego-centredness is allowed to triumph over other-centredness indefinitely. There is a coaxing and a prodding of events that are unyielding. Love issues commandments that cannot be denied but that only Love can fulfill. Inevitably ego-centredness is exposed as a transient, insignificant, ignorant, arrogant fiction. In time, we can no longer believe the self-deceptions we tell ourselves. Eventually, we seek to know the Truth.

Yet, what could be more real than personal experience? That said, what could be less true than solipsism, egoism? Given that otherness is the true reality, Pure Otherness is the Absolute confrontation. Unconditional Love is unconditional.

Pictured perfects pale; only Love's labours last.
Ego's fictions fail; self-awareness is surpassed.]

Day 88

SAMUEL

**TRUST THAT
LOVE KNOWS;
KNOW THAT
LOVE CARES;
CARE THAT
LOVE GROWS**

**LOVE CARES
THAT WE LOVE**

**HEARTS AND SOULS,
MINDS AND BODIES
TRANSFORMED AND
SUSTAINED BY LOVE.**

[I doubt that we know who or what to trust. We just trust those who know, those who care, those who help us to grow. In time, some learn that Pure Otherness cares that we know.]

Day 89

KINGS

**COME
TO THE TEMPLE
OF GRACIOUS HOPE
BY THE PATHS
OF MERCY
AND TRUTH**

**LOVE FREES
THE HEART
TO LIVE
AND LOVE**

**A LOVE
GIVEN TO US
AND THROUGH US
TO OTHERS.**

[I doubt that Love curtails human experience. Divine Love enhances human life and Love is not limited by ego-centredness.]

Day 90

CHRONICLES

**BOUNDLESS MERCY,
POWER AND PEACE**

**LOVE IS
LIVING WATER
WELLING UP
TO ETERNAL LIFE**

**LOVE IS
ULTIMATELY,
THE ONLY WAY,
THE ONLY TRUTH,
THE ONLY LIFE.**

[Divine Love is the ultimate way, truth and life. I doubt that we can do anything lasting other than by responding to Love. Everything else is transitory, insignificant, ignorant egotism.]

Day 91

EZRA

**LOVE
GIVES LIFE
TO LOVE**

**LIFE
IS BORN
OF LOVE;
ETERNAL LIFE
IS BORN OF
ETERNAL LOVE**

**LOVE IS
SO SLOW
TO ANGER;
MUCH QUICKER
TO FORGIVE.**

[Human beings put themselves through all manner of suffering only to blame it on God's anger. Yet, who could survive God's anger?

Divine Love corrects our ego-centredness in order that we might be open to other-centredness. Yet, Love forgives us time and time again when we fail to comprehend or comply.

If we ever experience the value of other-centredness, I suspect that we will begin to long for an encounter, an endless encounter, with Pure Otherness.

To share in the experience of others can be transforming, but to share in the experience of Pure Otherness would probably be unspeakable.

I doubt that anyone can truly speak of a Divine perspective except insofar as God gives one a glimpse of gracious Love and a voice to express it.]

Day 92

NEHEMIAH

**LOVE
FOREVER PLANS,
PREPARES AND
PERFORMS
NEW ACTS
OF COMPASSION
AND PEACE**

**LOVING HEARTS
KNOW,
LOVING EYES
SEE,
LOVING EARS
HEAR:
THE COMPASSION.**

[Part of the joy of the experience of otherness and Pure Otherness is not just the expansiveness but also the newness of each experience. Otherness is forever being disclosed in yet new and undreamt of ways and realities. Pure Otherness is forever being revealed in new depths of Love and Peace and Truth and Faith.

I doubt that we have even begun to appreciate the concept of depth. Depth of experience adds a whole new dimension to our appreciation of fullness and abundance.]

Day 93

ESTHER

**LOVE
STRENGTHENS THE HEART
LOVE
RESTORES THE SOUL
LOVE
CLEANSES THE MIND
LOVE
HEALS THE BODY**

**A LOVE
BEYOND WORDS,
OF MATCHLESS
POWER.**

[Love strengthens the heart towards other individuals and all otherness. Love transforms the mind towards the whole of creation. Love integrates the body and soul. Only Love has the power to achieve these acts. Is this wishful thinking or the experience of sheer joy?

I doubt anyone will deny that there is a difference.]

**LOVE
REVEALS LOVE
AND THE NEED
FOR LOVE**

**LOVE REVEALED,
LIFE DISCLOSED**

**LOVE'S WAY
IS THE WAY
OF SUFFERING
LOVE.**

[We do not understand why there must be suffering and evil in a world created by Love. I doubt that this is the world that a Good God intends. It seems likely that Love wills to work with us to change things. It seems likely that Pure Otherness suffers with us far more over the current state of the world than we can ever appreciate.

I suspect that the way of suffering Love is an important way out of ego-centredness and towards other-centredness. Suffering and evil force us to look into our own ego-centredness. However, suffering and evil also force us to reach out to others and to Pure Otherness. Perhaps the suffering of others enables us to look beyond our own egos.

The indifference of nature, the ego-centredness of human beings, the silence of God are all so contrary to the wonders we experience in everyday life. Chance benefits, human kindnesses and excellences, the glories of nature, all make it seem more obvious that Pure Otherness is re-creating the world, in part with us and through us.]

LOVE'S YES

**AT THE PEAK
AND
IN THE PIT
LOVE COMES**

**FEAR AND
REVERE
THE POWER
OF LOVE**

**GOD'S LOVE
AND LOYALTY
NEVER FAIL.**

[Which would you rather be a caterpillar or a butterfly? If you ask a caterpillar, you might get one answer and if you ask a butterfly, you might get a different answer. Which would you rather be: ego-centred or other-centred? If you ask the ego-centred, you will get one answer and if you ask the other-centred, you will get a different answer. I doubt that the caterpillar can envision being a butterfly but perhaps the butterfly can remember life as a self-interested caterpillar.

We become... forgotten. Would it not be better that we might remember and move on? Conscious awareness is such an invaluable gift: Loves yes and Loves no. No, we cannot remain a self-interested caterpillar and Yes, we will be given a chance to spread our wings of other awareness.

How do I know? I know because there are both caterpillars and butterflies in the world, there are both ego-centred and other-centred human beings in this world.]

Day 96

PROVERBS

**KIND AND
TRUE DIRECTION,
LOVING AND
GOOD CORRECTION**

**LOVE COMES
TO THE BROKEN
AND THE WEAK;
LOVE SPEAKS
TO THE SUFFERING
AND THE SICK;
BUT THE PROUD
AND POSSESSIVE
HAVE NO USE
FOR LOVE.**

[It's an old story: often those who have much look down on those who have little or less: physically or intellectually or emotionally or morally.]

Another old story: we are not what we have. We ought to let go of what we have in a quest for something better.

A newer message: those who do not have much or who have lost what they had, may be in a better position to receive something much, much better.

Yet, I doubt that the ego-centred can automatically listen and learn from a serious loss or deprivation.]

**LAWS OF LOVE
GOVERN THE HEART**

**FACE TO FACE,
HEART TO HEART,
MERE SPECKS OF
CONSCIOUS LOVE**

**AN ATTENDING HEART,
AN ADORING HEART,
AN OBLIGING SPIRIT,
AN OBEDIENT SPIRIT,
CREATED BY LOVE.**

[The main problem with an enlightened self-interest is that it is still self-interested. Only love can get one to value another better than oneself. Without such valuing, there can be no ego-sacrifice. Without ego-sacrifice there cannot be ever greater unions and human progress.

What is love? Love is other-centredness, a consequence of God's Love, Pure Otherness. Divine Love is what leads us and draws us and propels us on into the Kingdom of Other-centredness.

Without such Love, I doubt that life makes much sense. With such Love, Life is more than meaningful.]

Day 98

SONG OF SONGS

**LOVE
AWAKENS
THE DEAD
TO LOVE**

**LOVE IS MORE
INEVITABLE
THAN LIFE**

**THE POWER
OF THE
SUFFERING
SERVANT
IS ETERNAL
LOVE.**

[Life without love is unreasonable. We love life, we live our loves. However, love can become so egocentric that it can hate whatever interferes with the love of the ego.

Just as Love gives rise to life, Love can also give rise to new forms of love and life. It is Love that appreciates life in all forms of otherness.

I doubt that even those who lose their desire for life have also lost a desire to love. Even self-loathing is a longing for another form of life and love. Divine Love is eternal.]

Day 99

ISAIAH

**A NEW LAW,
A NEW WAY,
A NEW LIFE
OF LOVE**

**LOVE IS ITSELF
THE SIGN
AND
THE WONDER**

**LOVE GRANTS
PRIDE OF PLACE
TO THE HUMBLE**

**LOVE IS
THE LEVELLER.**

[Our lives can become so repetitious that we lose sight of novelty. Yet, everything around us is new every moment. Now is in fact newness. Otherness is disclosed in new ways continuously.]

Pure Otherness gives an ever newer, deeper love for other-centredness. Pure Otherness commands and accomplishes each new way of Love. I doubt there could be a more wonderful proof of Love than Love itself.

God Loves God's entire creation unconditionally. The less ego-centred experience the consequences of the gift of other-centredness more and more.]

Day 100

JEREMIAH

**LOVE
MAKES LOVE
POSSIBLE**

**LOVE ALONE
IS THE MEANS,
METHOD AND
REQUIREMENT
OF LOVE**

**LOVE AND LOVE ALONE
GIVES US
THE MOTIVATION FOR LOVE,
THE MEANS TO LOVE
AND THE MEASURE OF LOVE.**

[Love is the only Absolute: The Alpha and Omega, our centre and circumference, the birth and boundaries of otherness. Love is the most intimate and ultimate gift.

I doubt the validity of any other supposed absolute.]

**LOVE IS
HERE
AND
LOVE IS
NOW**

**LOVING
THE UNLOVING
IS THE POWER
AND THE GLORY
OF LOVE**

**A MULTITUDE
OF HEARTS
MADE ONE.**

[Other-centred intentions, other-centred acts, other-centred values, other-centred emotions— these can conjoin minds and bodies, spirits and hearts as one. Yet, other-centredness is so foreign to the ego-centred as at first not even to exist.

Loving those who do not respond to love takes immense power. I doubt that an ego-centred love can generate the power needed to sustain an other-centred love even if one could re-centre one's love.

There is more than enough love to go round and round and round and around.]

**WE PASS
FROM DEATH
TO LOVE**

**LIFE IS ABOUT DYING
DEATH IS ABOUT LOVING**

**THE SERVED
ARE FREED
TO SERVE**

**WE DIE,
WE SLEEP,
LOVE CALLS,
WE WAKE.**

[There is more joy in one genuine act of other-centredness than in years filled with ego-centredness. Yet, even one act of altruism is so difficult to accomplish that some people deny that altruism even exists. They insist that apparent acts of altruism are really only self-interested acts. The reason it is so difficult, though, is because it is a gift freely given.

I doubt that anyone knows of altruism except perhaps as a longing until it happens again and again.]

**TO KNOW
OF LOVE
IS TO BE
KNOWN
BY LOVE**

**LOVE
THAT YOU
MAY KNOW
THAT YOU
ARE LOVED**

**THE MOST
POWERFUL FORCE
IN THE UNIVERSE
IS THE CREATOR'S
CONSTANT LOVE.**

[Sometimes one realizes or is made aware that one has very limited capacity, a scarce appreciation and almost no understanding of Love. That can be very discouraging, if not depressing, since love can be such a major part of our life.

Yet, that in turn can lead one to believing that Love brings love's own capability, humility and strength. Love does not rely on human waywardness, human importance, human ignorance, human emotionality. Love is influential, invaluable, steadfast, given.

I doubt that anyone can arrive at this awareness of Truth, Goodness, Beauty, Faith on one's own. Love is relational.]

**LOVE
WITHOUT
LIMIT**

**LOVE PERMEATES
THE UNIVERSE
WITH A
BINDING AND A
BOUNDLESS LOVE**

**LOVE CENTRED
AND
LOVE SURROUNDED
HUMANITY WILL
PREVAIL.**

[I doubt that God intends for us to be anything other than human beings. By God's grace, we get to share in the Love of Pure Otherness as humans. Divine Love helps us make the transition from ego-centred to other-centred beings, but not a transition from humanity to divinity.

We believe that Christ is God. Yet, Christ Jesus shows us that we can be more fully human. God is perfect apart from humanity. God does not need any other beings to do God's will and work. God's will, and our work with Love's help, is to become human.

While we are commanded to become holy, perfect in love, our perfection is to be human in response to Pure Otherness. How else can we avoid ego-centred depravity on the one hand and blasphemy on the other hand?]

**LOVE
IS MADE
PERFECT
IN OUR
WEAKNESS**

**LOVE IS
FOR THOSE
WHO TAKE
NO OFFENSE
AT LOVE**

**LOVE IS
FROM THE BEGINNING
TO THE END.**

[We know what we want. We may even know what we need. Why all this talk about love? What we want and what we need concerns ourselves even if it involves others. Yet... only Love can get us beyond ourselves to the wants and needs of others.

If we try to pass everything through a filter of our personal experience, we may not allow others the personal freedom they want and need to grow. Yet, other-centredness may be even less about knowing what others want and need and more about loving and caring about them.

I doubt that knowing can surpass loving.]

**LOVE
CREATES AND
RECREATES;
LOVE CALLS AND
LOVE
COMMISSIONS**

**LOVE CHOOSES
THE MESSAGE
AND
THE MESSENGER**

**CHOSEN
BY LOVE
TO LOVE.**

[I doubt that Love wills to lead our lives for us. God has given each of us certain freedoms to live out our own lives. God does, however, give us encouragement and strength to live loving lives.

Nevertheless, from time to time, God may call upon us and commission us to perform very specific acts of love. On those occasions, I doubt that Love takes “no” for an answer. Such a task becomes so much a part of our life that we can see no other way forward. The task may appear momentous or seemingly trivial but we will not be content until it is being done.]

**LOVE
DOES NOT TAKE CONTROL,
LOVE
IS IN CONTROL**

**THE POWER AND THE PURPOSE,
THE GLORY AND THE MAJESTY,
THE KINGDOM AND THE SPIRIT
OF LOVE**

**MADE FREE
TO SERVE
BY THE POWER
OF LOVE.**

[Love is as basic a need for survival as air, water, food and shelter. We grew as persons by the love of our families and our friends. Yet, the experience of other-centredness can quickly become overwhelmed. There is no end to creaturely needs. Even the more loving may revert to ego-centredness out of fear for ego-preservation.]

Love your enemies? We have learned to co-exist and even to cooperate with our foes against common threats. However, loving our enemies seems unlikely.

Nevertheless, if we assume that our enemies are as ego-centred as we are, we at least have that in common. We all fear for our ego-preservation. Yet, I doubt that ego-preservation is our highest value, especially when it comes at the expense of others.

We cherish self-sacrifice greatly. We have unparalleled gratitude for those who risk or lose their lives for family, friends and even total strangers.

Would we risk our lives for our enemies? Perhaps we have no final enemy other than ego-centredness.]

Day 108

JONAH

**LOVE HAS
A LONG TRADITION
BUT ALSO
A PERSONAL HISTORY**

**THERE IS
A LOVE
THAT RIGHTS
ALL WRONGS**

**LOVED ONES:
*lovelings.***

[We are earthlings who can become *lovelings*. To go to sleep a caterpillar and wake up a butterfly. Will the butterfly remember life as a caterpillar?

Wishful thinking? I doubt that I could even begin to wish for a tiny fraction of all the benefits that I have already received. Righting the wrongs of ego-centredness was only the first step in the growing history of truth, goodness, beauty and love.]

**THE LAWS
OF LOVE
ARE
LAWS
OF LIFE**

**LOVE MAKES
POSSIBLE
THE LAWS
OF LOVE**

**LOVE RULES
FROM THE KNEES.**

[Our lives are governed by several different types of laws. There are many social laws, such as traffic laws, which we more or less accept as social contracts. We can bend and even break these contracts at times without serious consequences. However, if we stray too far, when we are caught, we are likely to receive a severe punishment in one form or another.

There are also natural laws, such as gravity, that are more binding. We have learned to confront some natural laws and seemingly conquer or harness them for a time. However, natural laws cannot be broken entirely. We learn to work within their boundaries.

Spiritual laws are different again and they are the most binding in their own way. Rather than break spiritual laws, humans are not able to fulfill spiritual laws unaided. Although humans have worked out ways to challenge natural laws, there is only one way to challenge spir-

itual laws. Humans can deny that spiritual laws exist; however, that doesn't make them go away or render them ineffectual.

Spiritual laws are the only absolute laws. I doubt they can be avoided. Egoism eventually leads to isolation and death. Other-centredness leads to right relationship and a more abundant life. Only the Spirit of Love can enable humans to get from one to the other.]

Day 110

NAHUM

**THE POWER,
THE PERSON,
AND THE PRESENCE
OF LOVE**

**THERE IS
NO FORCE
IN HEAVEN
OR ON EARTH
TO RESTRAIN
AN ACT
OF LOVE**

**THE SINCERE
SIMPLICITY
OF LOVE.**

[Each day I doubt that I have anything more to add. That is when the thoughts begin to flow. All I need do is repeat, restate and/or respond. Such Love and Peace and Truth and Faith cannot come from ego-centredness. We just don't realize Love within us until Love speaks. While Love is speaking, nothing else matters... as much.]

**LOVE ACTS
WITH OR
WITHOUT
OUR CONSENT**

**UNCONDITIONAL
LOVE IS
UNCONDITIONAL:
GRACE IS
A GIVEN**

**LOVE IS
AS
LOVE WILLS**

[Human terms, such as omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal, love, don't begin to describe the Absolute. Our ego-centredness gets all tied up in self-contradictions. Love is as Love Acts.

I doubt that we can grasp the significance of Pure Otherness. Fortunately, Love grasps the whole of Love's creation.]

**LOVE SEARCHES,
RECREATES
AND UNITES
OUR HEARTS**

**MADE
ONE
IN LOVE**

**MADE
ONE
BY LOVE**

**THE RULE
OF LOVE
IS
FOR ALL.**

[Ego-centredness makes it impossible for any of us to comprehend the universality of God's Love. Pure Otherness is towards the whole of creation throughout time.

Other-centredness is self-less. Our only significance is as an individual part of God's entire creation. How very, very, very small a part we play. Yet, the tiniest of Love's visions can be filled with Goodness and Beauty and Truth within creation.

Pure Otherness suffers all forms of ego-centredness in order that Pure Otherness might make all other-centredness one in love.

I doubt that I have much sense of the Absolute but at times there are limited experiences of self-less-ness made possible by Love.]

**LOVE IS
THE BREATH OF
SPIRITUAL LIFE**

**THE SPIRIT OF
ETERNAL LOVE
GIVES LIFE
TO ALL**

**LOVE IS
THE WAY;
THERE IS
NO OTHER.**

[Why do I hold back in ego-centredness when I know that there is no comparison with other-centredness? How can the life story of an unreal ego really matter? When and where should my will thrive? Who cares more than me what I do or say?

I doubt that my life is all about me. There are times when I do not even miss myself. In fact, losing myself in work or play or interaction or inquiry is exceptionally pleasing. However, I quickly or eventually seek myself out to find out how I am. The more time I spend in ego-centredness, the greater my self-importance becomes to me.

Without individual wills there can be no relationships. Without relationship there can be no unity. Unity is not Pure Otherness. Unity is other-centredness. It takes an agent to be other-centred. Yet, the will that is other-centred must matter more than the will that is ego-centred. It is a law of significance or importance or meaning or value. It is a law of the love of life.]

Day 114

ZECHARIAH

**BEFORE
WE CARE
LOVE COMES**

**THE LAWS
OF LOVINGKINDNESS
DIRECT A
GRATEFUL HEART**

**KEEP
LOVE'S LAWS
OF JUSTICE
AND MERCY,
OF TRUTH
AND PEACE.**

[Love leads. Love shows us possibilities and gives us encouragement. Otherwise, we would be lost in ego-importance.

Follow Love's lead. It makes more sense to follow Love's lead than to remain isolated and lost.

Love leads us to a Kingdom of Love. For some, it is a few short steps. For most, it is the journey of a lifetime. I doubt that we even know which routes to take. Only Love can disclose our Way.]

**ETERNAL,
EVER-PRESENT,
ALL-KNOWING,
ALMIGHTY,
LIFE-GIVING
LOVE**

**LET US LIVE
BY THE LIGHT
OF YOUR LOVE**

**THE PERFECT
ONENESS
OF LIFE
IS LOVE.**

[Loving acts of other-centredness can be observed. If in our ego-centredness, we cannot imagine a personal loving act of other-centredness, we cannot rule it out. If we come upon another suffering and it is within our power to help, we must rule loving service in. In that moment, we may be surprised by what is given to be within our power.

If on the other hand we contribute to the suffering of another, we have ruled ourselves out. We will never know the joy of that other-centred experience.

I doubt that a life without ever increasing other-centredness is worth living.]

More Days of Love

Day 116

MATTHEW

**LOVE DOES
THE HUMANLY
IMPOSSIBLE**

**DIRECTED
BY LOVE
TO SPEAK
OF LOVE**

**HELPERS AND HEALERS,
SEEKERS AND PREACHERS
PERFORMING ACTS
OF THE HEART.**

[Pure Otherness enables us to forget ourselves. Some call this meekness or lowliness, others call it weakness and cowardice. Love can be children at play. We could all do with a second childhood: trusting, carefree, responsive and true.

I doubt that the ego-centred can experience such love.]

**LOVE MAKES
POSSIBLE
SELFLESS
ACTS OF
LOVE**

**AN ACT
OF
LOVE
IS BETTER
THAN LIFE
ITSELF**

**COMMANDMENTS,
SPOKEN BY
THE SPIRIT
OF LOVE,
MADE POSSIBLE
THROUGH LOVE.**

[We all need more than a little trust in every aspect of our lives. We need confidence that our expectations will be fulfilled. For most humans, this trust is ego-centred. Such ego-centred expectations serve us well for a while once institutions of self-interest have been established. However, when such institutions inevitably fail, they fail out of self-interest.

Loving trust foresees the inevitable failure of ego-centred institutions. I doubt that secular trust can ever replace sacred trust for very

long. The love and faith of other-centredness alone enables us to establish and possibly renew relations and institutions of loving trust. It is not our personal expectations but those of humanity at large that love will fulfill.]

Day 118

LUKE

**LOVE
ENABLES US
TO LEAD
SPIRITUAL
LIVES**

**THE LEAST
ARE FIRST
IN LOVE**

**GOD'S
ESSENTIAL
GIFT
OF
LOVE.**

[A loss of self-confidence and self-reliance in the face of growing uncertainties is nothing new. An increasing dependency on others to share life's challenges is to be expected. Yet, as uncertainties pile up, even trust in others can erode. I doubt that we can make the best of life in those circumstances.

Some suggest we can find meaning in activity or in thinking or in creating or in valuing as long as it takes us out of ourselves. We become absorbed in otherness. Other-centredness is life affirming.

What could be more life affirming than Pure Otherness? Pure Otherness could give meaning and value to self and others infinitely and eternally. Pure Otherness enables each of us to respond to otherness.]

**A LOVE
NOT OF THIS WORLD
IS
THE LIGHT OF THIS WORLD**

**LOVE IS GRACE;
LOVE IS FREED WILL**

**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR
AS YOURSELF
FOR YOU YOURSELF
ARE LOVED**

**A WORK OF LOVE
ONCE BEGUN
CAN NEVER BE UNDONE.**

[As ego-centred individuals, it is very difficult if not impossible for us to comprehend the authority and the power of Love. Even if we do happen to catch a glimpse, our first and our frequent thought is likely to be: how can I use this love to my advantage?

Love knows our weaknesses and Love cannot be mocked or manipulated. It is we who must learn about Love. Love shows us a way out of ego-concern. Love is about the whole of creation. There is no greater authority than Absolute Love.

Love frees us to be concerned about others. Love allows us to think

about a greater good even if at first we think of that greater good as a greater self.

Experiencing Love as an independent fact of life is overwhelming. Experiencing Pure Otherness as Good is unearthly. Experiencing God as Grace is unsought for peace. Experiencing our Father as Truth is ultimate assurance. Experiencing Absolute Love is joy beyond belief.

Love is just real. Egos just are not real. Self is in relation to otherness, others and Pure Otherness. I doubt that words can express the experience of Love.]

**LOVE GIVES
LIFE
TO ALL:
A NEW LIFE
OF LOVE**

**ALL PEOPLE
SHALL LOVE
BY FAITH**

**REALIZE
THE PRESENCE
AND POWER
OF LOVE
AND PEACE.**

[At first, Love grants us all a life of survival, of ego-centredness. We cannot explain it completely. We simply come alive as ego-centred beings.

At some point, Love may recreate in many of us a new life of other-centredness. We cannot explain it necessarily. We simply become aware of the importance of others. Others suddenly become equally if not far more important to us than we are to ourselves.

At some point, Love creates in all of us a new eternal life, centred in Pure Otherness. We cannot explain it sufficiently. We simply become aware of Absolute Love, Goodness, Truth and Faithfulness.

I doubt that I can doubt the first. I see no reason to doubt the second.

I have no wish to deny the third. There is much here that cannot be explained, only acknowledged. It is the way we are. It is the way we can be.]

**THE LORD
WILL RULE
WITH LOVE
BY LIFE
IN THE
SPIRIT**

**LOVE IS
THE HIGHEST
ORDER**

**LAW ABIDING
AND
LOVE FULFILLING.**

[Love is the law of God for God is Love. Love God and love your neighbour. In case we are in any doubt how impossible this is: we are commanded to love God first with all of our heart and soul and mind and strength. Only Love can fulfill what Love commands.

The second commandment is equally impossible for humans acting alone: we are to love our neighbour even as we are loved. Again, only Love can fulfill what Love commands.

Love does not free us from these obligations, but Love frees us for these responses. To love the Love of Pure Otherness is a gift of God.

I doubt that there is any higher Good in life.]

**LOVE GENUINE,
LOVE DIVINE**

**WE CANNOT
ALIGN OURSELVES
TO GOD'S TRUTH
AND LOVE**

**HAVE FAITH
IN THE POWER
OF LOVE
TO LINK
ALL THINGS
IN LOVE**

**LOVE
OUT OF
LOVE.**

[There are many dualities in life. Those who live at an extreme end of one of those dualities may not see that duality in stark contrast. Selfishness and selflessness may be one of those dualities. In other words, there may be takers and givers living to extreme.

It does little good for extreme takers to approach extreme givers in a time of renewal. Also, it does little good for extreme givers to insist on giving all of the time.

In other words, there are times for extreme givers to share with one another and for takers to withdraw. Other-centredness must have its sway.

There are times for extreme takers to confess and for givers to observe. Ego-centredness must have its transformation.

I doubt that many live at the extremes but some must.]

**LIFE IS
A GIFT
YET LOVE
IS AN EVEN
GREATER
GIFT**

**GENUINE LOVE,
THOUGH ACCEPTED,
IS REFLECTED**

**WE RESPOND
TO LOVE
WITH GIVEN
LOVE**

[A new day, a new month, a new season... life flows on and on, ever faster. Teach us to number our days of ego-centredness.

When we come to the end of our days, we may see it coming for months and months, if not years. May we be grateful to Pure Otherness for every single moment. We may realize that we are about to depart in a question of days or weeks. May we be glad for all those who have travelled with us and may we wish them well on their way. We may depart in a matter of seconds, minutes or hours. May we eagerly look to our own future otherness, God willing.

I doubt that life without Love is possible. Love without shared life is unimaginable. Pure Otherness takes into account all that we are and can be.]

**LOVE IS
OF GOD
IN SPIRIT
AND
IN TRUTH**

**OUTWARDLY
WE WASTE
AWAY;
INWARDLY
RENEWED
EACH DAY**

**LOVE CENTRED,
LOVE SURROUNDED,
PEACE.**

[I doubt that Love can be manipulated through prayer for personal benefit. Pure Otherness already gives us whatever we need before we even ask. Prayer is often a response of gratitude for Love and gifts given.

Perhaps we can pray to be less ego-centred, less selfish, more concerned. Perhaps we can pray to be more responsive to Love and to the needs and joys of others.

God is establishing a Kingdom of Love with or without our service. Moreover, God commands us to love in ways that we are incapable of fulfilling. We need to acknowledge over and over and over again how impossible it is for us to accomplish what God commands us to be and do. How else will we ever relax into Love's service?]

The Autocracy of Love

The Absolute speaks in Acts of Love and Peace
about Divine Truth and Faithfulness.

Our Father speaks to creation
about a Love within and without.

The Beloved Son speaks with humanity
in Truth about abundant Life.

The Loving Spirit speaks to all
individuals with Love and Peace
about Divine Truth and Faithfulness.

Yet none, not one, in ego-centredness
can hear and listen to and act upon
the Word of Life and Love.

Only by God's Grace
can we hear and respond to
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Day 126

COLOSSIANS

**ALL
ARE
ONE
IN
LOVE**

**LOVE UNITES
HEARTS
IN NEW
LIFE**

**NOTHING CAN
SEPARATE US
FROM THE LOVE
OF BEING LOVED.**

[Nothing can separate us from Love. Love created all and Love Loves all that Love creates.

Love also unites all that Love creates in the love of life.

We are not united in self-love but rather in the other-centred love of Pure Otherness.

I doubt that I can view the universe otherwise. I doubt that I would want to.]

**MADE STRONG
BY THE POWER
OF LOVE**

**THE POWER
AND THE
ASSURANCE
OF PEACE
AND OF
LOVE**

**GRACE OR
FREE WILL;
GRACE AND
FREED WILL;
GRACE AND
FREE WILL.**

[It is utterly amazing that any of us is ever not ego-centred. Why should a relationship of service suddenly become more significant than an expectation of being served? More than a few individuals even profess self-centredness as the single role in life: looking out for #1.

However, given that we have transient, insignificant and ignorant egos, what is the point of fooling ourselves that any of us is entitled to be served. (A nanosecond after we die, I believe that our egos are gone for good and forgotten.) I doubt that reward or punishment, pleasure or pain, education or training can inspire service. Yet, without service, there can be no other-centredness.

As beloved children of Pure Otherness, we are being served constantly. Moreover, we are all served before we even know our own needs. Step by slow and steady steps, we are being led from self to others. Eventually, others will matter as much and more than our true selves.]

Day 128

TIMOTHY

**LOVE KNOWS
OUR NEEDS,
LOVE SPEAKS
AND FREES,
LOVE BRINGS US
TO OUR KNEES**

**FEAR NOT
THE ACTS
OF MAN;
REVERE
THE ACTS
OF LOVE**

**LOVE
OVER SELF
EACH DAY**

[Humans are storytellers. We make up fictions in an attempt to explain what we really do not understand. Divinities sometimes still become part of our hypothetical constructs. In other words, logic and language, that is logical and linguistic observances, are the tools of human creations.

However, the Love and the Peace and the Truth and the Faithfulness of God speak to our hearts and souls and minds and strength about Pure Otherness. We are free to choose our human fictions over God's revelations of Love but then we are left with mere stories.

We might regard certain human fictions as hard-won facts of human experience. Yet, with each new experience, our ignorance escalates.

Our stories become so complex and self-contradictory that they dissolve in inconsistencies and incoherence. They are never comprehensive enough and so the consequences of life inevitably overwhelm us.

Nevertheless, we cling to the consequences we believe we know. We hope, expect and trust that we can predict what might happen. We create new stories, maybe better, certainly different ones. Frequently, we can live within our new stories for a time but eventually they too prove to be misleading. We settle for less or we seek out more assurance.

Anticipating, forecasting, predicting and prophesying are not futile. However, scripture informs us that only acts of Love are clear, concise, consistent, coherent, comprehensive and consequential. Only an act of Love is eternal.]

Day 129

TITUS

**KNOW LOVE
AND BE
MERCIFUL,
FOR LOVE
KNOWS AND
IS MERCIFUL**

**THE MESSIAH IS
THE MESSAGE,
THE MEANS AND
THE MEASURE
OF LOVE**

**LOVE
OVERCOMES
EVIL.**

[Are we never to indulge ourselves? I doubt that that is an issue. The true question is whether we are ever not to indulge ourselves?

Once we are shown the virtue of other-centredness, we at least have an option. However, we will still need help making a choice in favour of others. The Spirit of Love is more than a guide. The Holy Spirit makes other-centredness possible.]

Day 130

PHILEMON

**LOVE MAKES
POSSIBLE
A WILL
TO RESPOND**

**LOVE RESPONDS
WITH LOVE
TO LOVE**

**ALL SELFLESS ACTS
ARE ACTS
OF DIVINE LOVE**

**WE LOVE
GOD'S LOVE
BY THE GIFT
OF GRACE.**

[I doubt that love can ever be manipulated. Love is other-centred and beyond ego-centred control. Love is an act of Love.]

Day 131

HEBREWS

**LOVE IS
OUR PROOF**

**WHEN WE
ATTEMPT TO
CONTROL LOVE,
WE BECOME
DISTORTED
BY LOVE.**

[God is Pure Otherness, patiently accepting, faithfully trusting, ever hoping, endlessly enduring.

I doubt that Love ever controls us or that Love can ever be controlled by us. Love inspires and Love infuriates. Love is Absolute.]

**LOVE
IS
THE BASIS
OF LAW**

**THE LOVE
OF THE LORD
IS THE LAW
OF OUR HEARTS**

**WE ARE
FREED
TO SERVE**

**INCITE
ONE ANOTHER
TO LOVE.**

[Human laws help us to control and even to promote self-interest. Laws help us to turn self-interest into enlightened self-interest. Do no harm if you want no harm done to you. Co-operate for a common good. Have a purpose and feel better. Grow and flourish.

However, laws conflict: natural laws, human laws, Divine laws. Laws conflict when self-interests conflict. Some conclude that power and goodness cannot be reconciled by humanity or even by Divinity. So, they try to rearrange and prioritize personal values, usually to fit current circumstances. But we are all different and face different circumstances. Accordingly, life can become extremely complicated and conflicted.

Divine Love cuts through human laws to life's core: trust, truth, peace. Love shows us from within that we are simply incapable of fulfilling

human laws of equality let alone Divine Commandments to Love. We are ego-centred creatures who are incapable of getting beyond an enlightened self-interest.

Nowhere is that fact clearer than in the taking of life. Humans take the lives of others in the hope of making their own life better. Yet, what does it even mean to make our lives better?

I doubt that an act of self-sacrifice can ever arise out of self-interest. How can one hope for a better life by sacrificing one's own life? True one can give up certain desires and interests in the hope of a better outcome but one cannot give up self-interest. One would simply want to take one's self-interest into any new way or form of life. Only other-centredness can overcome self-interest.]

**THE OLD SELF
IS DYING;
A NEW BEING
IS AWAKENING
TO LOVE**

**DIVINE LOVE
CONFRONTS
EGO-CENTREDNESS
WITH NEW LIFE
FOR ALL**

**THE CALL
OF ETERNAL LIFE
IS THE AWAKENING
BY LOVE
TO AN AWARENESS
OF LOVE.**

[God gives life and offers Love. We are free to reject the latter and to destroy the former. We are also free to love the former and live through the later. However, loving life in all its fulness means getting beyond self love. Loving others as we are loved is life fulfilled by Love.

An ego can expand to fill an entire world view. That ego is dying or already dead. A nano second after I die my ego is gone and forgotten. A new being is awakening to a fuller awareness. Pure Otherness fills the entire creation. Pure Otherness is active and relating.

I doubt that the death of our egos is anything to fear. Divine Will is the offer of a new life of Love.]

Day 134

JOHN

**GOD
IS
LOVE**

**SINCE
GOD IS LOVE,
THEN
LOVE
IS OF
GOD**

**LIVE LOVE'S
PROMISES
BY LOVE'S
LIGHT.**

[Love: having affection towards; being concerned about; caring for; forgiving over and over. Perhaps forgiveness or overlooking perceived wrong is the strongest attribute of love. If we dwell on what we regard as misdeeds or slights or shortcomings, we are imposing standards on others that we could never live up to ourselves. Ego-centredness necessitates forgiveness.

Other-centredness is a gift, something that we could never achieve on our own. Other-centredness requires the other to allow us to love them. Only Pure Otherness enables us and allows us to respond at all times or at any time with Love to Love.

I doubt that one can completely love another who does not accept and respond to Love with Love.]

Day 135

JUDE

**MERCY AND TRUTH
IN THE MORNING,
FAITH AND HOPE
THROUGHOUT THE DAY**

**HEARTS MADE WILLING,
MINDS RENEWED,
SPIRITS REVIVED,
LIVES FULFILLED**

**LOVE IS
THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD**

**CREATION IS BEING
RESTORED TO LIFE
NOT BY LAW
BUT BY LOVE.**

[We need to pray for forgiveness for being too ego-centred and for faith that today will include more other-centredness. Day after day, the same request goes forth: to follow the light that leads to greater awareness. Laws are for the self-aware. Love is for the other-aware.

Why then do I ever doubt? Too much of the time, the best that I ever seem to be able to do is to doubt that I doubt.]

**SPIRITUAL HEARTS
AND
SPIRITUAL MINDS
CREATED BY LOVE:
A NEW HEAVEN
AND
A NEW EARTH**

**DIVINE LOVE
HAS OVERCOME
DEATH
THAT WE
MIGHT HAVE
ETERNAL LIFE**

**LIMITLESS LOVE
AND
PERFECT PEACE**

**IN THE BEGINNING
THERE WAS LOVE
AND THE LOVE
WAS A PROMISE,
A PROMISE OF LOVE.**

[Abraham sacrificed his ego, not his son. Pure Otherness experienced separation that we might experience independent life. We must experience the death of our egos that we might experience other-centred

Love. We die a little each day: physically, intellectually, emotionally, spiritually. Our bodies decline and our minds deteriorate and our desires diminish and our sense of good decreases. Pure Otherness prepares us for the gift of eternal Love and perfect Peace.

I doubt that there can ever be a lasting peace without the promise of Love. Life after death is Love.]

Days of Peace

**THE FIRST
LIVING WORD
OF HOPE
AND PEACE**

**THE FIRST
AND LAST
WORD OF
NEW LIFE**

**THE WORD
OF LIFE,
LIGHT AND LOVE
IN THE WORLD.**

[God is answering us even before we ask. Our questioning prayers are in response to God's answers.]

If we say that we are merely praying for the basics of human survival—air, water, food, shelter—how to obtain them and maintain them surely requires Divine guidance. Without other-centredness, we would cease to exist.

If we say that we are praying for meaning and purpose and truth, we are already being prodded and coaxed by Pure Otherness in the way of Love and Peace.

I doubt that we would truly know what to pray for if God was not already providing us with answers to our true needs.]

Day 138

A RESPONSE (JUDE)

**GREETINGS
OF PEACE
AND LOVE**

**SPIRITUAL LOVE
AND MERCY,
INCARNATE PEACE
AND HOPE,
DIVINE TRUTH
AND JUSTICE**

**PEACE IS
TRUSTING
IN TRUTH
AND LOVE.**

[The trusting faith which leads to peace in truth and love is a gift of Love. There is nothing that we can or need to do, to initiate or to maintain, in our relationship with God. God does it all.

However, we must accept Love's gifts to benefit from them. Yet, many, if not most, people would rather live in the darkness of ego-centredness rather than come to the light of other-centredness. Pure Otherness offers us a new way of life but that new life critically exposes ego-centredness.

Sooner or later we all become aware of the transience, insignificance, ignorance and terrible arrogance of an ego-centred human existence. For many, the awareness comes too late for this life. May God have mercy on our selves for any future life.

I doubt that God will let our egos get between Love and life.]

Day 139

A PROMISE (JOHN)

**FIRST WORD
OF LIFE,
SHARED WORD
OF LIGHT,
LAST WORD
OF LOVE**

**THY WORD
IS PEACE,
THY WILL
IS TRUTH,
THY WAY
IS LOVE**

**TRUTH GIVES
SPIRITUAL PEACE.**

[Many say it is better to face the suffering trials of this life head on rather than believe in the power and love of a merciful God. Goodness knows we have that option. Nevertheless, the Kingdom of Love transpires with or without our beliefs and service.

If we bring suffering upon ourselves individually or collectively, we may feel a deep responsibility to set it right. If we experience random suffering inflicted by an amoral nature or ego-centred people, we may feel a profound need to fight back and correct an injustice. If we refuse to suffer the humiliation of misguided thinking, and believe in a godless universe, we may deliberately strive to create human meaning and purpose in a seemingly meaningless and purposeless world. We have those freedoms.

Yet, when all is said and done by us, there is less joy and more sadness in frustrating, futile gestures against an unknown future than in a quiet loving trust in the inexplicable mysteries and miracles of Love. Pure Otherness does not leave us unattended... never has, never will.

I doubt that sadness is more fundamental than joy. I doubt that our human quest is more triumphant than Love's persistence.]

Day 140

COMPLETE (PETER)

**SPIRITUAL PEACE
IS HUMILITY**

**FIND AND
FOLLOW
THE PATH
OF TRUTH,
LOVE AND
PEACE**

**PRAY FOR
A LIFE
OF PEACE.**

[We are so driven by individual pleasures and pains or drawn by relational joys or sufferings. Why should we expect peace?

A peace that surpasses all understanding is not our doing. A perfect peace is not rightly reasoned or exactly executed or frequently felt or proudly praised. Divine Peace is a gift of Love.

The Peace of Pure Otherness is not centred on the ego. Perfect peace focuses on otherness: otherness within and otherness without. I doubt that concern for the ego has any place at all in true Peace.]

Day 141

PEACEMAKERS (JAMES)

**PERFECT
PEACE IS
A PROMISE
AND
A PRAYER**

**OBEDIENCE
TO GOD'S WILL
IS PEACE**

**THERE IS
A LOVE,
LIGHT AND
LIFE TO
SPIRITUAL
PEACE.**

[Peacemakers are children of Pure Otherness. They love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them. Their concern is for loving and true relationships. How could the ego-centred, even the enlightened ego-centred, achieve or even want such a thing?

To a friend or neighbour, we try to be a good friend or a good neighbour. To an enemy, we are an enemy. The ego-enlightened like to be kind to their friends and neighbours and to distance themselves and to hate their enemies.

Pure Otherness teaches us to love our enemies and to pray for those who persecute us. I doubt that we need greater proof that Pure Otherness is the enemy of egoism.]

Day 142

PROOF (HEBREWS)

**GOD OF PEACE,
PEACE OF GOD**

**GOD GIVES
OUR HEARTS
AND MINDS
SPIRITUAL
LOVE AND
PEACE**

**GOD'S LOVE,
JUSTICE
AND PEACE.**

[Judge not that you be not judged for your own ego-centredness. Human justice attempts to defend a type of equality and cooperation. However, we do not share the same interests, the same skills or the same circumstances. The inevitable result is conflict.

Most people appreciate some conflict or tension to overcome. It enables us to flex our minds and strengths in favour of personal causes which in turn enables us to feel alive. However, life itself can become one giant zero sum conflict with winners and losers. One wants to be a winner for as long as possible.

The only way to achieve inner peace through conflict is to keep on winning. The ego-enlightened may try to include more winners but the result is in fact the creation of more losers. Winners will enter into conflict with other winners to be still better winners. The inevitable result is eventual defeat and death.

Divine justice expresses a need for ego-sacrifice. Divine justice defines, delivers and defends new life. Divine justice is life and growth. Yet, one's ego-self must be sacrificed in order that one might experience the joys of other-centredness: love, peace, truth and strength.

Pure Otherness is with us all, always, as the source of those and other gifts.

I doubt that self-enlightenment leads to lasting peace. I doubt that a life without lasting conflict is any less exciting or any less joyful.]

Day 143

MOST PRECIOUS (PHILEMON)

**FATHER OF LIGHT,
LORD OF LIFE,
SPIRIT OF LOVE
LEAD US**

**TRUE LIGHT
OF PEACE
AND LOVE
LEAD US**

**YOUR LOVE
IS THE LIGHT
OF OUR LIFE.**

[Humanity makes much of principles such as fairness and freedom. Yet, such principles are based on beliefs in equality before the law and a trust in the law. Even here we fall far, far short of achieving, let alone maintaining, equal rights.

Divinity makes much more of commandments to love. Such Love is grounded in inequality and ego-sacrifice. Divine Love is able to deliver us from ourselves that we might experience a love for any and all others, a peace with any and all others, a truth about any and all others and a strength for any and all others.

God gives each and everyone of us immensely more than we deserve or could ever earn or could even ask for.

I doubt that we have anything to fear or to find fault with concerning ego self-sacrifice.]

Day 144

PLAN (TITUS)

**SPIRIT
OF TRUTH
AND PEACE**

**THERE IS A
CORRECTNESS
TO LOVE AND PEACE**

**GOD'S WORD
OF PEACE
HAS NOW
OVERCOME
THE WORLD.**

[I doubt that humans can set limits to our self-interests and freedoms. However, God sets such limits. We have a vague sense of equality of self-interests. Why shouldn't our neighbours and even our enemies have as much right to self-interests and freedoms as we do? If that leads us into conflict then the interests of the physically, mentally, emotionally or spiritually stronger wins out.

We have developed insights into cooperation. We can set certain limits to our self-interests in order to achieve a degree of cooperation. At one limit, we can try to avoid each other at least for a time. Next, we can agree to do one another no harm. We can let each other go our separate ways. Then again, we might agree to work with some others for common ends. We might even try to find a way to coordinate actions with most others to achieve still better or more essential ends. In this case, conflicts must be worked out in the light of consequences or coordination after conflict leads to break downs.

Next, God shows us the futility of all our efforts. We have no idea how to achieve an equality of rights and freedoms. We are unequal and unfree. There are strong and there are weak individuals and there are limited resources. Moreover, as our numbers increase, there are an escalating number and severity of conflicts. Will self-interest or coordination win out?

On the one hand, we have learned that there can be different winners and losers at different times. On the other hand, we have also learned that many of us can be losers most of the time. The real danger from the point of view of self-interest is that we could all become losers for whatever time we have.]

Day 145

PREPARATION (TIMOTHY)

**A LOVE THAT
PRECEDES US,
PEACE THAT
LEADS US,
TRUTH THAT
EXCEEDS US**

**A FAITHFUL FATHER,
A MERCIFUL SON,
A LOVING SPIRIT
GUIDES US**

**THE RULE
OF LOVE
IS IN OUR
HEARTS, SOULS,
MINDS AND STRENGTH.**

[God in Christ not only shows us that ego-centredness can be overcome but Love commands us to be other-centred. What is the point of God commanding us to do something that we have failed to fulfill time and time again? Divine Love is showing us that we cannot achieve other-centredness on our own.

How can the ego-centred judge the ego-centred? We can isolate ourselves, avoid others and attempt to do no harm. However, we do not really know how to set limits to our own self-interests and freedoms. Most people have a vague sense of the value of equality, but we have no idea how to achieve it while trying to maintain our own individuality. We strive somewhat unwillingly for an equality of ego-interests.

Divine Love does not judge us. Divine Love knows our weaknesses. God in Christ has overcome our ego-centredness. God in Christ commands us to act kindly, to act lovingly, towards each and every other... including our enemies.

I doubt that many of us have ever even tried to love our enemies. We might find out that we have no enemies other than ego-centred individuals just like ourselves.]

Day 146

LOVING SPIRIT (THESSALONIANS)

**ACTIVE TRUTH,
LIVING WORD,
CARING PEACE,
MAKING US
TRANSPARENT
TO YOUR
LIGHT, LIFE
AND LOVE**

**BE TRANSPARENT
TO THE POWER
OF LOVE,
PATIENCE
AND PEACE.**

[God is ever ready to fulfill the Love commandments. However, we must first recognize ego-centredness for what it is. Until we do, we will never even be able to acknowledge the gift of other-centredness.

How can we come to understand self-sacrifice? We seem to honour self-sacrifice above all else in our military, in our civil service, in our charities. Is self-sacrifice performed on an agent's behalf? Why should other agents sacrifice their time and lives in order that we don't have to sacrifice ours? We try to compensate them by honouring them with gratitude and by comforting their families with benefits.

I doubt that that is what self-sacrifice is all about.

Life is a sacred gift. Greater love has no-one than to give up one's life for another. If we focus on self-interest, whether of the doer or the receiver, we may lose sight of the act of love. Self-sacrifice is oth-

er-centred. It requires nothing in return. Other-centredness is its own reward.]

Day 147

POWERFUL (COLOSSIANS)

**LET PEACE
AND LOVE
RULE IN
OUR HEARTS
AND MINDS**

**DIVINE LOVE IS
AND
PERFECT PEACE IS
ABSOLUTE TRUTH
LIVING WITHIN OUR
LIMITATIONS.**

[The other-centredness of Pure Otherness is an incomparable calmness and correctness. It overrules the limitations of our ego-centredness. It frees us up to serve.

I doubt that there is any other form of selfless service.]

Day 148

INCOMPREHENSIBLE (PHILIPPIANS)

**GOD WORKS
WITH OUR
WEAKNESS
TO DO
DIVINE WILL**

**THOUGHTS AND
FEELINGS
DIRECTED BY
TRUTH, PEACE
AND LOVE.**

[We are not children, but we can be spiritual children. We live out our lives among our friends and enemies. For the most part, we do what we want to do out of ego-self-interest.

However, children need guidance and spiritual children, especially, need direction. Spiritual children are faithfully directed by the Truth, Peace and Love of Pure Otherness.

God forgives and overcomes our ego-centredness by working to turn our gaze otherward and even inward. I doubt that that could be achieved without the absolute Power of Divine Will.]

Day 149

GOSPEL (EPHESIANS)

**LOVE UNITES
US ALL
IN
PEACE
AND FAITH**

**SPIRITUAL BEINGS
MADE ONE
IN LOVE**

**THROUGH ACTS
OF LOVE,
WITH BLESSINGS
OF PEACE,
BY THE RULE
OF TRUTH.**

[If God can win over one person from ego-centredness, God can win over the world. One by one, we can all be united by love through faith, in peace. That is not to suggest that we all sit around and do nothing. Love acts by the rule of truth to build us up in peace.

I doubt that ego-centredness can build up much of anything.]

Day 150

SPIRIT (GALATIANS)

**DIVINE SPEECH
HAS BECOME
HUMAN TALK;
HUMAN TALK
CAN BECOME
DIVINE SPEECH**

**WE ARE CHILDREN
OF PEACE
AND LOVE**

**PEACE IS
SPIRITUAL
FRUIT.**

[We do not find God. God found and finds ways to relate to us. God speaks of Divine Will for Love and Peace and Truth and Strength. If we do not hear God speaking then we are simply not listening. God speaks to us primarily through others and to others through us.

God helps us to relate to one another. God helps us to tone down our ego-centredness. Without greater other-centredness, there is no recognition of gifts of greater love, greater peace, greater truth and greater strength.

To be covetous of the gifts that God has already given is to be ego-centred. Any new gifts from God relate to other-centredness.

I doubt that God gives us much directly.]

Day 151

PRESENCE (CORINTHIANS)

**LOVE
OFFERS
US
PEACE**

**MAKE
PEACE
WITH
LOVE**

**BE AT PEACE
AND WALK
WITH LOVE.**

[The world of self-interest is so very brief, insignificant, ignorant and defiant. Yet, the world of other-centredness is growing, purposeful, relational and dependent. I doubt that there is any real choice between the two. Why then do we choose a self-centred view of the world?

We trust only what we can see, hear, smell, taste, feel and interpret for ourselves. Individually, we are confined to our physical, mental, spiritual, emotional view of the world. When our world explodes or dissolves, as it must, we are at a loss. We make up stories to try to explain it all. Those stories are inevitably ego-centred.

However, our imaginative hypothetical constructs just don't meet our need for peaceful assurance. We are doubting Thomases. We think we must put our hands in God's wounds to know that God cares and that God can grant us peaceful assurances. And still, we do not reject self-interest.

Some believers speak of an awareness and an acknowledgement of the Absolute Authority of Divine Love. Love is the Author of our faith. Love and Faith are the means to Peace. Peace is resting in the Divine perspective: the Way of Love, the Word of Peace, the Work of Truth and the Will of Faith.]

Day 152

PERFECTION (ROMANS)

**THE LAWS
OF LOVE
AND THE
POWER
OF PEACE
SPEAK OF
GOD'S WILL**

**A LIFE
OF PEACE,
HOPE AND
HAPPINESS.**

[The power of God's absolute Will of Love does not annihilate our ego-centredness. However, it is at times of other-centredness that God enables us to live in peace and hope and happiness.

How can we imagine that the laws which we construct out of self-interest can compare, let alone compete, with the absolute laws of Love?

I doubt that self-interest will ever cease, but I also doubt that self-interest will ever dominate.]

Day 153

PREACHING (ACTS)

**PREACH
PEACE
TO ALL
PEOPLE**

**THE WORD
OF PEACE
IS THE
WAY OF
LOVE**

**GOSPEL
OF LOVE,
LIGHT AND
LIFE.**

[We are not invited to be good. We are commanded to be perfect as our Loving Father is perfect. Only Pure Otherness can fulfill God's own Will.

I doubt that this is a delusion that we would or could impose upon ourselves].

Day 154

PURPOSE (JOHN)

**OUR LIVING
WORD
OF LOVE,
PEACE AND
TRUTH**

**THE LIGHT
OF LIFE
IS LOVE**

**TRUTH, PEACE
AND LOVE
ARE GIFTS
OF GOD.**

[I doubt that we can be reminded often enough of the miracle of God's gifts. God has no interest in running our lives. However, God gives us the gifts of second life to lead better lives. God helps us to see and act beyond self-interest.

The first Love commandment is performed in response to Pure Otherness. The second Love commandment is also a response to Pure Otherness. To see Christ's Love in another person is all but unbelievable. We are humanly incapable of initiating these Loves. We can only respond to Pure Otherness.

We will never be able to set aside self-interest (entirely) but with God's help we can become other-centred. To become more other-centred and less self-centred is a gift of God. I need to be reminded of this Truth continually.]

Day 155

PATH (LUKE)

**EMMANUEL:
GOOD NEWS
OF PEACE
AND LOVE**

**LOVE GUIDES
OUR FEET
IN WAYS
OF LOVE
AND
PEACE**

**LIVING
LIGHT
OF
LOVE
AND
PEACE**

[It is just so incredulous that this good news is such new news every single day. God is with us in peace and love. Pure Otherness is guiding us with the clarity of Love. Love God first and then you can do in Love whatever your heart and soul and mind and strength aspire to do, for God is Love.

I doubt that such news will ever grow old or cold.]

Day 156

PERSON (MARK)

**PREACH PEACE
TO THE POOR
IN SPIRIT**

**CHILDLIKE
ACCEPTANCE
OF PEACE
AND LOVE**

**LOVE
IS
PEACE
IS
TRUTH
IS
STRENGTH.**

[This is meaning and purpose far, far beyond human understanding. This is calm, steady perseverance at its best. This is not wanting to be or do anything else. I doubt that self-interest is wrong in itself. I doubt that equitable self-interest is wrong in itself. However, excessive self-interest in all its forms is evil. Evil is overcome by good and only God is Good. God makes possible for one to overcome excessive self-interest in all its forms. God overcomes evil with good words and good works. Pure Otherness overcomes ego-centredness with other-centredness.]

DAY 157

HOPE (MATTHEW)

**GOD'S PEACEMAKERS
ARE BLESSED**

**A PEACEFUL LIFE
OF LIGHT AND LOVE**

**TRUTH
OF
LIGHT**

**PEACE
OF
LIFE**

**SPIRIT
OF
LOVE**

[We are all poor... poor in Spirit. Though the Loving Spirit touches some humans from time to time, we remain poor in the Spirit of Love, Peace, Truth and Strength. The kingdom of heaven is a recognition that the Loving Spirit is Absolute.

Humans tend to reverse ideas probably because of our reflection process. We get things backwards. For example, if one reads the Beatitudes, one tends to see the 'rewards' as a consequence of human actions. Whereas, the seeming 'consequences' are in fact pre-existing Graces.

Humans mourn in fact because we have first been comforted by Love. If we didn't already care so very much, we would be indifferent to the great loss.

Humans inherit the earth because they have first been made other-centred. If we were to remain self-centred, we would never be able to develop a humane world.

It is only after humans have encountered Righteousness that we

hunger and thirst after such Righteousness. How can one hunger and thirst after that for which one has no experience.

Humans show mercy after they have been shown Mercy. We can learn to love, even as we are Loved.

After humans become aware of Pure Otherness, their other-centredness develops. It is children of God who are peacemakers.

The Kingdom of Love, Peace, Truth and Strength pre-exists and endures anything and everything.

Confronted by Pure Otherness, humans are infinitely poor... poor in Spirit.

I doubt that there is a human absolute but that does not mean there is no Absolute.]

More Days of Peace

Day 158

PERFECTION (MALACHI)

**OUR PEACE
IS A GIFT
OF GOD**

**GOD'S LOVE,
PEACE AND
TRUTH ARE
CERTAIN**

**THE CERTAINTY
OF THE LAWS
OF LOVE
PROVIDE
HEALING
AND PEACE.**

[To achieve certainty and assurance, many believers seek to identify human will with God's Will or God's Will with human will. But how can there be any certainty of this kind?

God is perfect and God commands humans to be perfect. However, Divine Perfection is Pure Otherness. Human perfection can only be one of growing other-centredness. Even though humans generally regard selflessness or other-centredness as better than selfishness or self-centredness, humans can only be other-centred from time to time. Human cannot and should not deny their humanity, their creatureliness, their self-centredness. Humans should not and cannot ignore or deny God's Divinity, God's perfection, God's Pure Otherness.

I doubt that our certainty and assurance derives from anything other

than an evolving other-centredness. I doubt that other-centredness comes from within human nature. Without Pure Otherness, we would not even know or care what other-centredness was or how to experience it.]

Day 159

DIVINE PEACE (ZECHARIAH)

**GOD BLESSES
THE NATIONS
WITH PEACE**

**LOVE TRUTH
AND LIVE
IN PEACE**

**GOD GIVEN
HUMILITY
AND PEACE**

**HUMBLY, LOVE
IS VICTORIOUS.**

[When people die, we hope and pray that they may rest in peace. When nations die, we could hope and pray that they too may rest in peace.

People die to self-centredness eventually. It is a hope and prayer that Pure Otherness will complete their transition to other-centredness.

Nations will also die to self-centredness eventually. It is again a hope and a prayer that Pure Otherness will complete their transition to other-centreness.

As long as people and peoples insist on putting themselves first, they will be the last to experience peace.

I doubt that Divine Peace can be experienced without humility.]

Day 16o

COMMUNAL PEACE (HAGGAI)

**LET GOD
BUILD A
LIVING TEMPLE
WITH GOD'S
SPIRIT**

**LOVE, PEACE
AND TRUTH
WITHIN US**

**COMMUNAL PEACE
IS A BLESSING
OF JUSTICE
AND TRUTH.**

[Throughout the world there are marvelous architectural structures built to the Glory of God. Humans work so hard to appease and manipulate an unknown god. Yet, building an inner temple to the known God is effortless. Accepting God's Loving Spirit of Peace and Truth is all that is required. God does the rest. We need not denigrate beautiful architectural responses to Otherness. However, I doubt that outer temples are comparable to inner temples.]

Day 161

PRESENCE (ZEPHANIAN)

**GOD'S LOVE,
PEACE AND
TRUTH IS
WITH US
ALWAYS**

**LOVE IS
THE NEW
LANGUAGE
OF LIFE**

**LIFE IS
LOVE'S FIGHT
AND LOVE'S
VICTORIES.**

[There are no human absolutes. Humans cannot comprehend absolutes except in terms of something confronting them beyond their understanding. Even so there is an Absolute God Who is Wholly Other: Pure Otherness. We know this because God confronts us all, always, with Love, Peace, Truth and Faith.

I doubt that our joys and sorrows, our triumphs and sufferings, our ecstasies and our death, make any sense without this belief. There is a coaxing of events that should not be denied.]

**HEALING AND
CARING LOVE,
SILENT AND
PRECIOUS PEACE,
ETERNAL AND
UNCHANGING TRUTH**

**THE LORD
CHOOSES AND
INSTRUCTS,
THE LORD
STRENGTHENS
AND LEADS.**

[How can there be eternal truths if humans cannot conceive of them? Just how self-centred and anthropomorphic is that question? Well then, how can there be eternal truths for humans if humans cannot even comprehend them? What we humans sometimes regard as the last possible explanation makes perfect sense... until it doesn't.

God being God can do as God chooses. No human can do that. That humans can be other-centred is not by human choice. Only God Who is Other-centred could create creatures who might become other-centred.

Only God can call forth in us ever greater good, ever greater insight, ever greater strength and ever greater peace. Humans cannot always initiate but humans can be enabled to respond.

Even if we could initiate a change from self-centredness to other-centredness, I doubt that many would even bother to try. Even as an

attempt to overcome our mortality, it would merely be another act of self-centredness.]

Day 163

GOD'S GOSPEL (NAHUM)

**GOD'S WAY IS
LIFE GIVING LOVE,
GOD'S WORD IS
THE POWER OF PEACE,
GOD'S WILL IS FREEDOM,
JUSTICE AND TRUTH**

**TRUST IN
THE POWER
OF LOVE
TO PROTECT**

**LOVE
COMMANDS LOVE,
PROMISES PEACE,
DISCLOSES TRUTH
AND GRANTS FAITH.**

[It is common to interpret all human experience as self-centred. Each of us directs and interprets our own experience. When confronted by other selves, we avoid, overcome, give way or strike a balance. We are, by nature, competitive. Our actions are self-directed, self-affirming, self-acknowledging.

Other-centredness cannot be self-directed. We can only direct ourselves. There is an act of self-denial or self-suppression or self-suspension in every experience of otherness that cannot be self-directed or self-affirming or self-acknowledging. It is entirely Love directed, other affirming, other acknowledging.

Pure Otherness cannot be humanly self-directed. We can only direct ourselves. There must be an act of self-denial or self-suppression or self-suspension in every encounter with Pure Otherness. However, Pure Otherness in us is God affirming and other affirming. God affirms us as alive and we can respond by totally affirming God as absolutely Pure Otherness. Without God in us, we would not, we could not affirm other-centredness.

I doubt that we can look outward and inward at the same time.]

**LOVE BRINGS
PEACE TO
THE EARTH**

**WALKING WITH
THE LIGHT
OF GOD'S TRUTH;
RESTING IN
THE SHADE
OF GOD'S PEACE;
BEING GUIDED
BY THE LAWS
OF GOD'S LOVE.**

[Over and over and over again, God's Love, God's Peace, God's Truth, God's Will. If we repeat it enough times will we come to believe it? No. If we acknowledge it enough times, we will come to appreciate that we don't matter... except to God and ourselves. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.

We are born, we live, we die and our egos are instantly forgotten. Our egos have come and gone for others and are no more. The sense of impending loss of self can be overwhelming for most. All living things do anything and everything they can to preserve life: scurrying, creating, constructing, composing, calculating, competing. Works or achievements live on for a while and then they too are lost. Not even the memories remain.

What really matters? Some persons or some things may mean the world to us until that world dissolves. The loss can be unendurable.

Perhaps then we learn how much otherness matters. Pure Otherness matters most.

I doubt that a single act of love is lost to God for God is Love.]

Day 165

POSSIBILITY (JONAH)

**LOVE
GIVES
NEW
LIFE**

**GOD'S WILL
INTERSECTS
OUR WORLD**

**FROM THE BELLY
OF HATRED AND FEAR
DEEP IN THE OCEAN
OF DESPAIR,
LOVE FREES OUR HEARTS
AND OPENS OUR MINDS.**

[We are so vulnerable and protective in and of our self-centredness. At times, we despair of our transience, our insignificance, our ignorance, our arrogance. Our vulnerability drives us apart as strongly as it draws us together. Survival seems paramount. Survival seems hopeless.

Moreover, life without shared self-interests turns out to be nonsensical. What good is life without love and values and knowledge and interaction? The good life is a shared life. Nevertheless, a shared life is just as vulnerable and protective.

Only Pure Otherness can inspire in us a hope for new life that is enduring, significant, knowledgeable, evolving. As that hope becomes a gradual reality, we turn in gratitude towards God Who makes both life and a new life of other-centredness possible.

I doubt that we can continue to deny the Omnipotent, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Eternal Love Who coaxes our life into new life. As the hoax becomes the coax, our despair gives way to Grace. If not, coaxing becomes Commanding.]

Day 166

PEOPLES (OBADIAH)

**THE RULE
OF LOVE
IS THE
KINGDOM
OF THE LORD**

**HEARTS AND MINDS
BELONG TO THE LORD
IN GOD'S KINGDOM OF LOVE**

**LOVE STRENGTHENS
THE WEAK,
LOVE ISOLATES
THE STRONG.**

[All peoples... belong to the Lord in the Kingdom of Pure Otherness. All peoples are subject to Love. There are no communities without other-centredness. Each of us belong in community.]

Yet, from within God's peoples are a chosen people who serve God's purpose in extreme ways. Humanitarian elite suffer for the humanities and the sciences. Those individuals suffer physically and intellectually and emotionally and spiritually for the good of communities.

The Will of Pure Otherness is within all peoples... for all people.

I doubt that we would deny suffering service. Only suffering self-sacrifice results in other-centredness.]

Day 167

PUNISHMENT (AMOS)

**WHOLE-HEARTED
WORSHIP IN
PEACE AND LOVE**

**WITH THE PUNISHMENT
OF GOD'S LOVE
AND
THE PROTECTION
OF GOD'S PEACE,
GOD CREATES
OUR COMMUNITIES
WITH JUSTICE
AND GOODNESS.**

[I doubt that we are experiencing God's Love if we are not loving our neighbours. I doubt that we are experiencing God's Peace if we are not living in peace with our neighbours. I doubt that we are experiencing God's Truth if we are not being sincere with our neighbours. I doubt that we are experiencing God's Steadfastness if we are not being loyal to our neighbours.

I doubt that God withholds Love, Peace, Truth and Strength except to the extent that we are as yet unable or unwilling to accept Pure Otherness. Self-centredness can become such a way of life that to be other-centred becomes utterly alien.

Other-centredness is other centred, not just enlightenly self-interested. Other-centredness is outward as well as inward. Self-centredness assumes solipsism... that all experience can be self interpreted. Other-centredness assumes Pure Otherness, that there is much experience that cannot ever be interpreted. The former is a closed world, the latter is an infinitely, abundantly open world.]

Day 168

PROTECTION (JOEL)

**GOD GIVES
PROTECTION
AND PEACE**

**LOVE PREPARES
A PLACE OF
SPIRITUAL PEACE
FOR SPIRITUAL PEOPLE**

**LOVE FIGHTS
OUR SPIRITUAL BATTLES
FOR US
AND
WITH US
EACH DAY.**

[There may be just two kinds of people in the world: egoists and lovelings. Egoists believe in self-centredness and possibly in enlightened self-interest. Lovelings believe in other-centredness and possibly in Pure Otherness.

Egoists assume that we can interpret everything we experience but that we cannot interpret anything with absolute certainty. Conscious awareness gives rise to various forms of imagination. People must interpret their own lives and their own world for themselves and for others.

Lovelings assume that we cannot interpret everything we experience but that we can experience interaction or at least confrontation with otherness. Conscious awareness is certainly a continuous precious

gift: a gift that continues as long as it is given. Lovelings acknowledge a great many gifts and many lovelings give thanks to Pure Otherness as the Giver.

Egoists often have a great need to achieve, to become. Lovelings know that achievements are less important than being aware. I doubt that humanity can be without both egoists and lovelings.]

Day 169

COMPANIONSHIP (HOSEA)

**WE ARE GOD'S
DISCIPLINED
DAUGHTERS
AND SONS.**

**GOD'S LOVE, PEACE
AND JUSTICE
WILL LEAD US**

**WALKING IN
GOD'S WAY,
WALKING WITH
GOD'S WORD,
WALKING BY
GOD'S WILL.**

[Pure Otherness circumscribes our creaturely freedoms. There are limits to what self-centred individuals can do and achieve. When we see the extremes to which self-interested people can go to for good or for evil, we can only wonder at the freedom that God allows creation. However, when or if we realize that enlightened self-interest is as far as human freedoms can take us, we may be ready for the next step.

God asks of us acts that no self-centred individuals are capable of performing. God does this that we might know the Will, the Power and the Absolute Authority of Pure Otherness. Other-centred acts are not self-serving acts. Other-centred acts are not performed out of self-interest.

Other-centred acts are performed in us and through us for others. I

doubt that we have any understanding of or control over other-centred acts. Yet, we are still free as self-centred creatures too reject the Will of Pure Otherness. Pure Otherness is Grace alone.

Mortality is our primary indication of the absolute limit of individual self-interest.]

Day 170

PLAN (DANIEL)

**OMNIPOTENT,
OMNISCIENT,
OMNIPRESENT,
ETERNAL
SOURCE OF
LOVE, PEACE,
TRUTH AND
TRUST**

**THE MAJESTY AND
THE MYSTERY AND
THE MIGHT OF
GOD’S LOVE**

**PEACE ON
GOD’S TERMS.**

[There are worlds within worlds. There is a natural world which, in spite of all of its vast beauty, is in itself amoral. There is a human moral world, comprising many different types of human mutable values. There is a Divine world of immutable values.

Human values develop as self-centred individual values. They can become extremely self-centred and downright selfish and evil or they can become less self-centred and mutually beneficial.

Divine Values are immutable Absolute Values. Humans have great difficulty imagining and believing in absolutes. So much so that many humans currently dismiss absolutes as impossible.

I very much doubt that humans would continue to believe in an Absolute if God did not confront nature and human realities with other-centredness and with Pure Otherness.]

Day 171

PROMISE (EZEKIEL)

**BREATH
OF LIFE
AND LOVE,
PROMISE
OF PEACE
AND HOPE,
WORD
OF TRIUMPH
AND TRUTH**

**GOD'S PEACE
IS A PLACE
OF HEALING.**

[We cannot hold our breath for very long. We cannot hold back God's breath of Love at all. We cannot keep all the promises we make. We cannot stop hoping for God's healing promise of Peace. We cannot always speak words of truth. We cannot prevent the triumphant Word of God's Will.

There are things that we simply cannot be or do or say, try as we might. Yet, God is and does and says without fail. Our lives are limited in time, by space and through will. God's Absolute Will is everywhere anytime.

We cannot know our own true natures let alone God's. What we think is already in the past. What we are and do and mean is in an unthought present. What we truly need is unthinkably unimaginably taken care of.

The Love and Peace and Truth of Pure Otherness prompts our aware-

ness of our shortcomings and our misgivings. I doubt that we would even be able to care if God didn't care first.]

**GOD'S LOVE
IS ETERNAL,
GOD'S PEACE
IS EVERLASTING,
GOD'S TRUTH
IS UNENDING,
GOD'S FAITH
IS INFINITE**

**GOD'S LOVE
PRECEDES
AND
SUCCEEDS
US ALWAYS**

**GOD IS LOVE:
WITHOUT GOD'S LOVE
THERE CAN BE
NO LASTING PEACE.**

[We are perfectly free to live as self-centred individuals. After all, it is our nature. However, nothing of self-interest will ever endure for long. Pure Otherness leads us out of self-centredness through self-denial and self-sacrifice towards other-centredness. Something of other-centredness never completely dies. Other-centredness is an act of Love.

We humans are a curious lot. We try to make good use of why and who and how and when and where questions. However, our questioning can get the better of us when the questioning becomes more important than the likely answers.

Perhaps we need to review just what is clear, concise, consistent, coherent, comprehensive and consequential.

God's Will is being done with or without our knowledge or participation. Based on our life experience, I doubt that we can absolutely say otherwise.]

Day 173

PERVASIVE (JEREMIAH)

**LET PEACE
AND LOVE
RULE IN
OUR HEARTS
AND MINDS**

**GOD'S PEACE IS
IMPENETRABLE
AND
PERMANENT**

**GOD'S PEACE
IS LIFE'S
PUREST
PLEASURE.**

[There are things in this world that cannot be sought for but must simply be acknowledged. You can try to create a self, for good or for evil, but you will never find your self-centredness. You can try to act for the good or harm of other selves, but you will never find their self-centredness. You can wish for or deny a divine self, but you will never find Pure Otherness.

Some things must simply be accepted gratefully, humbly, reasonably and responsively.

I doubt that other-centredness is any different.]

Day 174

PERFECTION (ISAIAH)

**GOD IS
THE PRINCE
OF PEACE
IN THE KINGDOM
OF LOVE
WITH POWER
OVER DEATH**

**GOD PROMISES
AND PROVIDES
PERFECT PEACE**

**GOOD NEWS
OF PEACE
AND JUSTICE
FOR ALL.**

[What then is other-centredness? Other-centredness is yet another of life's necessities. Experience has no meaning without relationship. Pure Otherness is right relatedness. Other-centredness is self in a selfless relationship.

I doubt that death can be defeated in any other way.]

Day 175

COMPASSION (SONG OF SONGS)

**GOD'S PEACE
IS MORE
POWERFUL
THAN DEATH**

**GOD'S COMPASSION
EXTENDS
TO DEATH
AND BEYOND**

**THE BEST
WE CAN
DO IS
LOVE
OR
TO HOPE TO
LOVE
OR
TO FEAR NOT
TO
LOVE.**

[Of all the things that you value most which things have you deserved? Conscious awareness just happens. Others are confronted. Nature is a given. God is an Absolute. Give thanks for that which lies beyond positive evaluations.

Of all the things that you hate the most, which things can still be embraced? Death happens. Evil is opposed. Pain and suffering are en-

dured. Absolute commandments are denied. Fear not the things that lie beyond negative evaluations.

Absolute commandments are absolute. Pain and suffering intensify experience. Evil is parasitic. Death does not negate the fact that life was lived.

I doubt that anyone would fail to value life lived. We lash out at anything that denies us life. We want and need to learn to live life more fully.]

Day 176

HAPPINESS (ECCLESIASTES)

**GOD'S GIFTS
INCLUDE
PEACE AND
HAPPINESS**

**ENJOY
GOD'S GIFTS
AND GIVE
THANKS**

**RESPECTING
AND RESTING
IN PEACE
AND LOVE.**

[Humans begin and continue their moral experience by valuing individual experience greatly. Through individual moral experience most humans learn to value relational experiences even more. Through individual and relational experience, quite a few humans learn to value divine experience most highly. Learn from their experience.

Individual experience is active, competitive, self-interested and limited to conscious awareness. Relational experience is shared, competitive self-interest and may become mutually respectful. Divine experience is completely responsive. Humans must give up individual and relational competitive freedoms in responsiveness.

Questioning can be a form of passive activity: an opening up to otherness.

I doubt that humans can command other-centredness. Pure Otherness commands other-centredness continually.]

**GOD INSTRUCTS
AND CORRECTS
GOD'S CHILDREN**

**AWAKENING AND
RE-AWAKENING TO
GOD'S LOVE,
PEACE AND
TRUTH**

**GOD COMMANDS
AND DESERVES
OUR LABOUR
AND
OUR LOVE.**

[The Holy Spirit awakens us to the greater possibilities of love, peace and truth. A self-centred life is so confining. An other-centred life is so open, so free and so enduring.

The Holy Spirit instructs us in the ways of love, the words of peace, the works of truth and the will of faith. These are gifts that humans must learn to receive rather than values to achieve.

The Holy Spirit takes command of us to love Love, to experience Peace, to know Truth and to trust in Divine Faithfulness. Humans experience these new realities in an actively passive manner: humbly, hopefully, expectantly, joyfully.

Feeling and listening and observing and especially acting needs to

become largely responsive experiences. I doubt that self-centredness gives much credence to responsiveness.]

Day 178

INNER PEACE (PSALMS)

**WE MUST
LEARN TO
SING A
NEW SONG
OF PEACE
AND LOVE**

**THE JUSTICE,
HAPPINESS
AND GOODNESS
OF PEACE**

**GOD CARES
FOR US.**

[I doubt that we need to be indifferent to life to act passively. We will never know God's Truth if we are always busy trying to imagine what truth is like. We will never experience God's Peace if we are too busy engaging in human restraints. We will never feel God's Love if we are forever involved in human acts of love and hate.

We need to learn to sing some of our songs responsively. Songs can simply transpire.]

Day 179

PRESENCE (JOB)

**GOD
ALONE KNOWS
THE WAY
TO WISDOM**

**BE STILL
BE SILENT
BE HONEST
LISTEN TO
LOVE**

**LOVE SAVES
US FROM
OURSELVES.**

[Self-centredness is the past. Other-centredness is the present. Pure Otherness is the future.

Self-centredness is biographical, historical, individual, reflective experience. The egoistic self dissolves as we die. Other-centredness is current, active and passive interaction. Responsive agency may persist eternally, God willing. Pure Otherness is the Will, the Work, the Word and the Way of Love forever and ever.

God unfolds the future. God calls us into the future. God leads us into the future. God determines the future.

I doubt that we possess the future. The future belongs to God.]

Day 180

THE PATH (ESTHER)

**WE TRUST
GOD'S WAY,
GOD'S WORD,
GOD'S WILL**

**WE TRUST
GOD'S LOVE,
GOD'S PEACE,
GOD'S TRUTH**

**LOVE ALLOWS
ALL PEOPLE
TO LIVE
IN PEACE.**

[Pure Otherness commands trust, provides trust, and proves trust-worthy.

Self-interest commands distrust, is distrusting, and proves untrust-worthy.

Other-centredness trusts and distrusts.

I doubt that distrusting proves anything.]

Day 181

PRECIOUS (NEHEMIAH)

**SPIRITUAL
SIGNS OF
HAPPINESS
AND PEACE**

**LOVING
SERVICE
MAKES YOU
HAPPY
AND STRONG**

**GOD'S GIFT
OF WORK
BRINGS GREAT
PLEASURE.**

[Stop always asking what you want to do and start asking what God is already leading you to do. Six months into this daily devotional and I'm still asking whether God is leading me to do this work that I take great pleasure in doing!]

I doubt that anything could make me happier at this moment than trying to express God's Love, Peace, Truth and Will. Yet, how foolish of me to think that I have any understanding.]

Day 182

RESPONSIBILITY (EZRA)

**GOD'S PEACE
IS OUR
NEW LIFE**

**GOD GIVEN
OPPORTUNITIES
AND
RESPONSIBILITIES**

**CELEBRATING
MOMENTS OF
OUR RELEASE**

**CELEBRATING
GOD'S LOVE.**

[Enjoy life but don't just enjoy it actively. Enjoy life passively as well. Being responsive also has its own rewards. Be physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually responsive to other-centredness and Pure Otherness.

Other-centredness has a different presence: different perspectives, different wills, different voices, different interests.

Pure Otherness has a different Presence: Divine perspective, Divine will, Divine voice, Divine interest.

I doubt that humanity's centre must always be self-centred.

Day 183

INTERPERSONAL (CHRONICLES)

**PERSONAL,
FAMILIAL
AND
COMMUNAL
PEACE**

**GOD CREATES
PEACE WHERE
NONE EXISTS**

**LOVE
PATIENTLY
WITHDRAWS
POWER
AND PEACE
WHEN
NECESSARY.**

[The reflected past is biographical and concerns a shared self-centredness. The unreflected present is transactional and concerns a shared other-centredness. The predicted future is transformational and belongs to a shared Pure Otherness.]

I doubt that these individual, interpersonal and spiritual aspects of life can be altered by humanity.]

Day 184 POWER (KINGS)

**GOD’S KINGS
AND GOD’S
PROPHETS
SPOKE OF
GOD’S PEACE**

**GOD GRANTS
AND DENIES
POLITICAL
PEACE**

**LIVING
AT PEACE
WITH GOD
AND ONE
ANOTHER.**

[The Peace of Pure Otherness is beyond human comprehension; yet, God’s Peace is a gift.

God’s Peace is not confined to a reflected, individual, past self-centredness. Nor is God’s Peace confined to an unreflected, interactional, present other-centredness. God’s Peace is also an aspect of a predictable, transformational, future which belongs to Pure Otherness.

I doubt that we can say that the future is more of the same. The future is unclear, imprecise, inconsistent, incoherent, incomprehensible yet consequential. While humans often think in terms of cause and effect, scripture speaks in terms of leadership and relationship. We are led into the future].

Day 185

PROTECTION (SAMUEL)

**THE LORD
IS OUR
PROTECTOR**

**GOD'S PEACE
IS OUR WEAPON,
SHIELD AND
SHELTER**

**GOD'S WILL
PROTECTS
US FROM
OUR WILL.**

[Life is confrontational. Some say absurdly so. We tell ourselves stories but the stories just don't add up or play out as we hoped. We are each immensely complex self-centred individuals until we are forced to accept the even greater complexity of other-centredness. Then we adopt an inclusively shared world view until we must also accept an absolutely greater perspective of Pure Otherness.

God protects us from the stories that we tell ourselves. Life is wondrously complex. We have no idea how to relate to that growing complexity. We suspect that there are basic principles of physical cause and effect and of mental logics and of emotional values and of imaginative possibilities. However, that is just how we currently experience and interpret the world. God continues to confront us with ever greater things and truths and values and beauty.

Our individual and collective stories have a beginning, a muddling

and an ending. I doubt that there is any point in being anxious about what is inevitable. Thy Will be done is an acknowledgement, not a request.]

Day 186

PRECIOUS (RUTH)

**GOD'S WAY
IS LOVE,
GOD'S WORD
IS PEACE,
GOD'S WILL
IS TRUTH**

**GOD'S
BLESSING
OF PEACE**

**GOD'S WILL
IS A
NEW LAW
OF LOVE.**

[Many if not most human beings deny the presence of Pure Otherness on the grounds of our conscious awareness of many absurdities: randomness and inequality and senseless suffering and death. Yet, what if those are the very things that assure us of the presence of Pure Otherness. Wishful thinking? What if God is offering us positive ultimatums. Emmanuel is God with us in all things and in all ways and always.

Once again we may have gotten things backwards through intellectual reflection. The absurdities may be God's way of saying what God is not like in the present situation. God creates the possibilities but God does not side with randomness and inequality and senseless suffering and death.

Death can lead us to new human life. We first experience it when we sleep. However, we experience it far more meaningfully if we become aware of other-centredness. Senseless suffering can lead us to human compassion. Even though some seemingly senseless suffering is the result of an indifferent material world, far more human misery is the result of human actions or inaction. Senseless suffering can lead us away from self-centredness. Inequality can lead us to even greater inequality and still greater equality. Some positive inequalities are extremely beneficial for humanity. Elitism in strength (Olympics), in intellect (physics), in imagination (the arts), and emotions (compassion) amaze us. That all might share in these positive inequalities is a meaningful goal.

Randomness can lead us to an absolute dynamic, an ever-changing changelessness. I doubt that our current reflections come anywhere close to the presence of God's current ultimatums of Love and Peace and Truth and Will. Nevertheless, new life and human compassion and greater inequalities and ultimatums are Divine gifts of Love.]

**GOD MAKES
THE RULES
FOR A
PEACEFUL
LIFE**

**THERE ARE
GOD GIVEN
VICTORIES
AND PEACE**

**LIVE
THE HOPED
FOR PEACE.**

[God's Will is bound to get in our way. As we dig deeper and rise higher and go farther, God is there before us. God's gifts cannot be wished for or earned. We have immense difficulty even trying to comprehend them. One cannot take hold of omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal Love.

God also gives us the freedom to deny or say no to Divine Love and Peace and Truth and Faith... for a time and for a space. However, we inevitably come up against God's Will in ways we cannot avoid even if we want to. We probably will not even recognize God's Will at first but eventually we are bound to wonder about a Glorious and Exacting and very Real Obstacle. GOD'S WILL IS BOUND TO GET IN OUR WAY.

I doubt that there is any other way to a greater self-awareness and other-awareness than through and with Pure Otherness.]

Day 188

PROMISE (JOSHUA)

**THE LORD'S
PROMISE
OF PEACE
IS FULFILLED**

**THE LORD
LET ISRAEL
LIVE IN PEACE**

**GOD FEARING
PEACE AND
SERVICE**

**WE WALK
WITH LOVE.**

[Anything that would limit our self-centredness may be regarded at least at first as a serious threat. We feel, imagine, know and do what is our right in our world... until it isn't. When things are about to go badly enough, we begin looking around for a way through or a way out.

It is so hard to realize that what we need is a way out of individual or even collective self-centredness. Yet, all of our anxieties and fears are truly short-lived. These episodes are so very unlikely to survive our own self-centredness.

I doubt that humans can find their own way out of their own fictions. We need to be awakened to God given Absolutes: Love, Peace, Truth and Will.]

Day 189

PURPOSE (DEUTERONOMY)

**LOVE'S WILL
WILL HAPPEN**

**EMOTIONAL,
SPIRITUAL,
MENTAL,
PHYSICAL
LOVE AND
PEACE**

**THE PEACE
OF LOVE
REPLACES
SELFISH
DESIRES.**

[Creation has a lot of freedom to act and to become as it chooses. However, the Creator does insist on a few things: life, love, peace, truth and faith. If we feel, think, act or imagine that we lack any of those necessities towards God, our neighbours and ourselves, our lives are misguided.]

Because those things are so essential to our wellbeing, God makes them available to the whole of creation as unconditional gifts. If we do not avail ourselves of those necessary gifts, nothing else matters.

I doubt that we can flourish without any of those necessities. However, most of us avail ourselves of only an infinitesimal amount of what God offers to us all.]

Day 190

PRAYER (NUMBERS)

**LOVE BLESSES
AND PROTECTS,
LOVE SHOWS
MERCY AND
KINDNESS,
LOVE GIVES
PEACE**

**LOVE
TREATS
ALL
ALIKE**

**LOVE CAN
TURN CURSES
INTO BLESSINGS.**

[Other-centredness can become immensely more desirable than self-centredness. However, if we are focused on self-denial and self-sacrifice, we are still fixated on a human achievement and self-centredness. Other-centredness is a gift, a gift of much greater value than even the gift of self-centredness.

Yet, other-centredness is also a gift that can be accepted or rejected repeatedly. Nevertheless, Pure Otherness makes other-centredness possible in all circumstances. When another person says “I” that person usually speaks to us out of their own self-centredness. Through Love we can learn to speak an “I” (agency) wholly towards otherness. When God says “I AM,” God speaks out of Pure Otherness: Pure Other-Centredness.

I doubt that we can experience other-centredness in its fulness without first experiencing Pure Otherness: unconditional Love. Having experienced Pure Otherness, other-centredness is something similar. Pure Otherness is other-centredness everywhere, always.]

Day 191

RESPONSE (LEVITICUS)

**THE CONSTANT
PROTECTION
AND PEACE
OF LOVE**

**FREED FROM
SELF SLAVERY
BY LOVE
FOR LOVE**

**GOD'S PEACE
AND LOVE
ARE TO BE
SHARED.**

[Whenever we experience Pure Otherness, we are faced with a choice: self-centredness or the possibility of other-centredness. The selfless can still be selfish. The other-centred can still be self-centred. Divinity does not replace humanity.

Love, Peace, Truth and Will on the one hand or selfishness, anxiety, doubt and conflict on the other hand, they are radically different experiences. We may be aware of them as two extremes. Yet, we usually live in a middle area of awareness: enlightened self-interest. Consequently, it is possible to lose sight of either extremes.

However, even as the awareness of death is never far removed from our daily experience, the Absolute is with us always. I doubt that we can remain ignorant for very long. Pure Otherness is not to be denied ... forever or by all.]

Day 192

PRICE (EXODUS)

**PASSOVER
PEACE
AND
SABBATH
REST**

**SELFLESS SERVICE
IS THE PRICE
OF LOVE'S PEACE**

**OUT OF SELFISH
SLAVERY
AND INTO A
NEW LIFE
OF LOVE.**

[There is a self-centredness that darkens our days. Self-centredness is inward looking. Solipsism is a living death.

The Pure Otherness of Love lights up our way by leading us out of the slavery of self-centredness and into a life of possible selfless service.

Selfless service is not an inward cost but an outward value. New life is outward looking life.

I doubt that self-centredness and other-centredness concern anything less than living attitudes.]

Day 193

COMPLETION (GENESIS)

**SABBOTH
REST IS
A GIFT
OF LOVE**

**GOD'S SPIRITUAL
PERSONAL, FAMILIAL
AND COMMUNAL
BLESSING OF PEACE**

**TO THE END
THERE IS PEACE
AND THE PEACE
IS A BLESSING,
A BLESSING
OF GOD'S PEACE.**

[God makes possible for us to pass somewhat freely between self-centredness and other-centredness. In this way we experience a greater love, peace, truth and strength. However, the fulness of life includes an experience of Pure Otherness: Absolute Love, Absolute Peace, Absolute Truth, Absolute Will.

Be still... and know... the Giver of the gift of life.

We follow in emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical pursuit of fulness. We respond with increasing fulness to the Absolute. We experience an ever-refreshing newness of life.

I doubt that a completion is ever anything but a fuller new beginning.]

Days of CHRIST THE LORD repeated

Day 194: THE ALPHA – ALL AUTHORITY

**GOD IS ALIVE
AND ON
UP AHEAD.**

**CHRIST IS ALPHA,
THE NEW HUMAN
AND AMEN.**

**GOD’S ACTS
ARE AMAZING
AND
GOD’S ANSWERS
ARE SURE.**

**GOD TREATS
ALL ALIKE.**

**CHRIST’S COMMANDMENTS
ARE FOR ALL.**

[Which is more important, that we know the Absolute or that the Absolute knows us? God knows each of us far better than we know ourselves. To know that we are known is an act of Pure Otherness. We know that we are known when we realize that we are led and guided and cared for unconditionally.

God is not usually concerned to help us with our human fictitious egos. God’s Will is distinct from human will. God’s Will concerns our

radical growth and development. God makes it possible for us to live with ever greater awareness and appreciation.

To live is to grow. I doubt that we ever stop growing, with gratitude.]

Day 195:

THE BELOVED – GOD’S BODY AND BLOOD

**GOD ALLOWED
CHRIST’S BODY
TO BE BROKEN
AS THE BREAD
OF LIFE AND
CHRIST’S BLOOD
TO BE BLED
AS GOD’S BOND
OF LOVE
SO THAT WE
COULD BE
MADE TO OBEY.**

[We are at peace with our shortcomings, knowing that we follow after Pure Otherness. God alone can turn the greatest tragedy into the fullest triumph. God made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure that we might make even minor ego-sacrifices. God finds ways to lead us out of ego-centredness and towards other-centredness.

I doubt that there is a more positive feeling, thought, belief or strength than knowing that we can follow Pure Otherness anywhere at any time.]

Day 196

THE CHRIST – CHRIST CRUCIFIED

**GOD'S
CLEAR
CONCISE
COHERENT
CONSISTENT
COMPREHENSIVE
AND CONSEQUENTIAL
COMMUNICATION:
CHRIST CARES
FOR GOD'S CREATION.**

**CHRIST CAN MAKE
GOD'S KINGDOM
CENTRAL TO
OUR CONCERNS.**

**GOD'S COMMANDMENTS
ARE GOD'S COMMITMENT.**

[We presume far too much when we try to take on the work of Pure Otherness. Love will let us know what we can do in other-centredness.

I doubt that any of our emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical elites can find any other way to experience other-centredness. We are all locked into ego-centredness until we are released from time to time by Love.]

Day 197

THE DOOR – DEATH DEFEATED

**GOD DIED
TO DESTROY
OUR DEMONS
AND TO
DELIVER US
FROM EVIL.**

**GOD’S DEATH IS OUR DEATH,
GOD’S LOVE, OUR LIFE.**

**GOD IS THE
DIVINE DOOR
OF OUR
DELIVERANCE.**

**AS WE ARE
FORGIVEN AND
FREED OF EGO-
CENTREDNESS,
DO NOT DOUBT
THAT WE CAN DO
AS GOD IS DOING.**

[What is other-centredness? Other-centredness is the conscious awareness of everything that is not ego-centred. However, a major problem for human beings is that everything is ego-centred until we realize that the ego-self is largely a fictional story that we tell ourselves about who we are. Yet, it is not hard to imagine that there could be some non-fictional aspects to our experience. After all we are morally responsible for the stories we tell ourselves. The world then becomes populated with agents who are non-fictional, morally responsible storytellers.]

Ego-self interest and even enlightened ego-self interest is already as good as dead and forgotten. We only attempt to preserve our stories in order to try or try not to relive them.

I doubt that there is anything of greater practical importance than conscious awareness. I doubt that Pure Otherness allows the destruction of other-centred conscious awareness.]

Day 198

EMMANUEL – EVIL ENDURED

**ONLY GOD
IS ETERNAL;
EMMANUEL
IS EVERLASTING;
LOVE-LIFE-LIGHT
IS ENDLESS.**

**GOD TRANSFORMS
OUR ENDLESS
DARKNESS INTO
EVERLASTING
LIGHT.**

**GOD’S ETERNAL LOVE
IS ESSENTIAL
IN TYING
EVERYTHING
TOGETHER:
EVERYONE
IS MADE
EQUAL.**

[Individual conscious awareness is an independent love of life. Conscious awareness is individual emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical experience. However, the ego-self must die in order that independent consciousness can become so much more aware.

Other-centredness also continues individually as long as there is conscious awareness. There can be immense meaning and satisfaction

in caring for conscious awareness in all of its possible forms. The destruction of conscious awareness would be the destruction of possible shared conscious content.

Pure Otherness shows us a radically different form of conscious awareness. When Pure Otherness says “I AM,” Pure Otherness does not speak of an ego-self but of a Relational Selflessness. Unlike creation, Pure Otherness is completely other-centred. Pure Otherness needs nothing but makes everything possible.

Pure Otherness teaches us where our love of life comes from. I doubt that we could love another’s life if Pure Otherness didn’t awaken, restore and renew our individual other-centredness.]

Day 199

THE FIRST – FAITHFUL FRIEND

**OUR FATHER'S
PURPOSE IS
FIRST AND
FINAL.**

**IN FAITH CHRIST
CALLS GOD FATHER
AND US FRIENDS.**

**GOD IS
FAIR:
GOD HAS NO
FAVOURITES.**

[To see our lives solely in terms of conscious awareness gives rise to a new experience. Our individual conscious awareness gives expression to the unique configuration of our personal conscious awareness. Suddenly, the creation and expression of the ego-self can have little or no significance. Yet, individual awareness is beyond valuation.

We call upon the conscious awareness of others to share the conscious content of their experience. They tell us that all that they can be sure of is their own individual conscious awareness. This conscious awareness can be directed or distorted or disturbed or withdrawn. However, conscious awareness cannot be denied.

If conscious awareness and shared conscious awareness is all that truly exists for any of us and for all of us, then conscious awareness could be virtually the same whenever and wherever it occurs. Conscious awareness is a given.

I doubt that we have more than just begun to examine and to express the significance of conscious awareness.]

Day 200

THE GOSPEL – GOD’S GLORY

**GOD IS GREAT,
GOD IS GOOD,
GLORY BE
TO GOD.**

**LIFE, LIGHT AND
LOVE ARE
GIFTS OF GOD.**

**GIVE THANKS
TO OUR
GLORIOUS GOD
FOR GOD’S
UNSPEAKABLY
GENEROUS GIFT.**

**GOD’S AGREEMENTS
COME WITH
GOD GIVEN
GUARANTEES.**

[I doubt that God, who gives us conscious awareness, could be anything less than Good and Caring and Deliberate and Delighted. God can excite and extend and expand our conscious awareness indefinitely. Pain, suffering and death certainly draw our attention to the significance of conscious awareness and the insignificance of the ego-self.

We can try to sharpen, share and shut down our own conscious awareness and the conscious awareness of others.

A secular view of experience is that humanity is just a stage in the evolution of conscious awareness. A sacred view is that God enters into our experience and stays within us as a separate Individuality concerned only about Love. The secular view is reductive while the sacred view is expansive. The reductive view can only express itself. The expansive view can be responsive to Pure Otherness.]

Day 201

THE HOPE – GOD’S HUMILITY

**IN HOLY
HUMILITY
GOD HONOURS
GOD.**

**GOD HAS
A HOLD
OF BOTH
HEAVEN
AND
HELL.**

**GOD’S HEALING
AND GOD’S HELP
ARE
OUR HOPE
AND
HAPPINESS.**

[What can we hope for? Through consciousness we become aware of human individuality. Hopefully, through conscious awareness we can be awakened to God the Giver of life, light and love.

The ego-self can reflect responses that are emotional or intellectual or physical or spiritual. One can become fanatical about any or several of these aspects of human experience. However, God’s Love, Peace, Truth and Will call forth a total emotional and a total intellectual and a total physical and a total spiritual response.

I doubt that God can be known through any other experience than a total response to Pure Otherness. Since a response to God is complete, the response can be confident. A total response is not an achievement. A total response is a God inspired gift.]

Day 202

**THE INCARNATE
I AM – INCARNATE INSPIRATION**

**GOD
IS IN
CHRIST,
CHRIST
IS IN
US.**

**GOD
INSPIRES
GOD’S
HUMAN
IMAGE.**

**GOD’S LOVE
IS A DIVINE
INVITATION
FOR HUMAN
INVOLVEMENT.**

**[IMMANUEL IS
INCREDIBLY
IN ISRAEL.]**

[The Glory of God is totally inspiring. We may find ourselves doing and saying and imagining and feeling things we never thought possible. I doubt that we can interpret the experience except as a response to Pure Otherness. Reflected human responses are partial and exclusive but a Divine Command is absolute and inclusive.]

Day 203

JESUS – THE JUST JUDGE

**JESUS
A JEW
OF JUDAH
WENT UP TO
JERUSALEM
TO JUDGE
BOTH JEWS
AND GENTILES.**

**GOD’S JUDGMENTS
ARE JUST
AND
GOD’S JOY
IS GENUINE.**

**JEWS AND
GENTILES
SHARING
THE VERY
SAME JOY.**

[Jesus judges our ego-centredness that we might respond to unconditional Love with the joy of well-being. Other-centredness begins with God whether we realize it or not. Even if we fail to acknowledge Love, that does not diminish the fruits of the Spirit of Pure Otherness. Joy can overwhelm us wherever and whenever we are.

I doubt that anyone would refuse to respond with joy. I doubt that anyone would deny a response of sheer joy.]

**CHRIST IS THE
CORNERSTONE
AND THE KEY TO
GOD’S KINGDOM
OF WONDERFUL
KINDNESS.**

**GOD
KEEP
US SAFE
FROM THE
KIND OF EVIL
THAT WOULD KILL
THE KING OF KINGS.**

**THY KINGDOM COME,
THY WILL BE DONE.**

[What about a genuine fear, even terror, at the loss of conscious awareness? We did not exist and now for a time we truly are alive. Individual conscious awareness can be such a marvelous experience that is re-awakened each day. Loss of life is such a terrible thing because conscious awareness can be such a wonderful thing. Individuality matters to ourselves and to others ... until it doesn't. There may come a time and a place when we realize that individuality is far too limiting an experience.

Though a fear of the loss of life can be truly terrifying, the fear of not belonging can be even more devastating. If one begins to feel that one

does not belong here or now, one may begin to wonder if one should move on.

Individuals can travel the world trying to discover where they belong or who they belong with. Yet, belonging is a response. The Kingdom of Pure Otherness is about belonging. The Kingdom of Heaven is a total response.

I doubt that we belong anywhere other than in the Kingdom of Kindness.]

Day 205

THE LORD – LIGHT OF LIFE

**LORD OF LORDS,
LION OF JUDAH,
LAMB OF GOD
LEAD US.**

**YOUR LAWS
OF LOVE
LEAD TO
ETERNAL LIFE.**

**WE TRULY LIVE
BY THE LIGHT
OF LOVE’S LAWS.**

**LOVE GOD,
THE LORD OF LOVE;
LOVE NEIGHBOURS
IN NEED OF LOVE;
LOVE EVERY ENEMY
IN THE SPIRIT OF LOVE.**

[We can say words that have been given to us without our having a clue as to their true meaning. Yet, within the message is an inkling of their truth: the Laws of Love are absolute.

Pain and suffering are real and even the threat of them can dull or intensify the conscious awareness of individuality. However, Love outdistances and outlasts pain, suffering and conscious awareness.

Love is other-centred. I doubt that each one of us is at first much more than individual conscious awareness. Yet, individuality gives way to relationship between and among individuals.

Relationship is as real as individuality. It is among relationships that the Laws of Love preside. Fortunately, we can even learn to relate to ourselves.]

**GOD MAKES
THE WAY SMOOTH
FOR THE MYSTERY,
MERCY AND MIGHT
OF CHRIST’S MESSAGE.**

**MIRACULOUS MESSAGE,
MARVELOUS LIGHT,
MORNING STAR.**

**THE MIRACLE
OF NEW LIFE
PROVES
GOD’S MESSAGE
TRUE.**

**THE FULL MEASURE
OF GOD’S MERCY
SPEAKS OF
GOD’S MAJESTY.**

[What is this new life? It may begin with nothing but the shedding of the old self. Yet, the ego must be shed again and again and again. We continue to tell the story of who we think we are. Even shedding the ego daily seems hardly enough.

I doubt that the Laws of Love have much to do with ego-selves or self-centredness or even enlightened self-interest. The Laws of Love concern individuality, other-centredness and relationships. Unless and until we can get beyond our ego-selves, we will remain largely ignorant of other-centredness.

If and when we do see beyond the ego-self to individuality, we must guard against trying to over interpret the experience of that conscious awareness. Individuality is largely pre-reflective and post-reflective individual experience. Solipsism or stoicism or pantheism or mysticism can be seductive if one tries to over-interpret individual conscious awareness.

I doubt that there is a more fundamental experience than the uninterpreted experience of a selfless individual conscious awareness. That individuality is already an experience of otherness in Otherness]

Day 207

THE NAZARENE – NEW KNOWLEDGE

**GOD
MAKES
ALL
THINGS
NEW:**

**A NEW AGREEMENT
A NEW BIRTH
A NEW COMMANDMENT
A NEW DAY
A NEW EARTH
A NEW FAITH
A NEW GOOD
A NEW HEAVEN
A NEW INNOCENCE
A NEW JERUSALEM
A NEW KINGDOM
A NEW LAW
A NEW HUMAN
A NEW NATION
A NEW OBEDIENCE
A NEW PEOPLE
A NEW QUEST
A NEW RIGHT
A NEW SELF
A NEW TEMPLE
A NEW UNION
A NEW VOICE
A NEW WAY
A NEW EXPERIENCE
A NEW YES
A NEW ZEAL**

**GOD KNOWS
AND MEETS
OUR NEEDS
LIKE NO OTHER.**

[The truly new is the humanly unimaginable. Humanity can probably now actualize whatever humanity can imagine. Yet, physical, intellectual, spiritual and emotional laws govern the imagination. I doubt that we would believe that God is restricted by laws that govern human imagination. God is the Giver of the Laws of Love.]

Day 208

THE OMEGA – THE ONLY ONE

**ONE SPIRIT OF LOVE
ONE LORD OF LIFE
ONE HOPE OF TRUTH
ONE GOD, OUR FATHER
ONE FAITH IN GOD’S KINGDOM
ONE DEATH AND DELIVERANCE
ONE BAPTISM INTO CHRIST’S BODY.**

**ONLY THE FATHER
CREATES NEW LIFE;
ONLY THE SON
REVEALS NEW LIFE;
ONLY THE SPIRIT
GIVES NEW LIFE.**

**ONLY ONE LOVE,
THE LIGHT OF LIFE,
IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.**

[God is One quite apart from humanity. If we attempt to make God and humanity one, we either reject God in favour of an expansive humanity or we reject humanity in favour of an overwhelming divinity. God restores our true humanity by revealing God’s true Divinity.

A merely human form of divinity is exaggerated self-interest. Pure Otherness awakens us to an other-centred humanity. Pure Otherness awakens us to the Glory of God. We must stop rejecting our humanity and God’s divinity.

I doubt that we can experience true individual conscious awareness until we acknowledge and respond to Pure Otherness.]

Day 209

THE PRICE – PERFECT PEACE

**HUMBLY, GOD’S PEOPLE
PRAISE GOD’S PURPOSE,
PROMISE AND POWER.**

**GOD ALONE PAID
A GREAT PRICE
FOR OUR PEACE.**

**THE POWER OF
THE LOVE OF GOD
WILL PROTECT YOU
AND GIVE YOU
GOD’S PEACE.**

**THE PRESENCE
OF GOD’S PURE LOVE
IS PROOF POSITIVE.**

**GOD TELLS OF GOD’S TRUTH,
GOD’S BEING, GOD’S LOVE,
GOD’S PRESENCE, GOD’S POWER.**

[With the Incarnation, God gave and continues to give ever greater value to individual conscious awareness. Perfect peace is the realization that our human individuality is of value. Such value can’t be earned. It is created by God, acknowledged by God and preserved by God. In perfect peace, we are involved in the creation, acknowledge-

ment and preservation of individual conscious awareness.

Pure Otherness teaches us to value what God values. I doubt that we could create, acknowledge and preserve a fuller value for our humanity than God's provides.]

**AM I WHOM
OTHERS SAY
I AM?**

**WITH WHAT WILL WE
COMPARE GOD’S KINGDOM?**

**CAN YOU RECEIVE
MY SPIRIT
AND PERFORM
MY SERVICE?**

**DO YOU NOT ERR
KNOWING NEITHER
SCRIPTURE NOR
THE POWER OF GOD?**

**DO YOU KNOW
WHAT I HAVE DONE?**

[We may think that we question ideas about God. Yet, this is another example of our backward reflective thinking. It is Pure Otherness Who continually questions our awareness of God. We need to be prodded and directed to inquire further. God questions us about our search and our quest. God questions our preparations and our readiness. God questions our responsiveness.

Are we aware of the Activity, Power, Message, Service, Spirit, Kingdom, Incarnation of Pure Otherness? God will continue to question us because God alone is the answer to God's questions. God alone can question and answer us infinitely and absolutely.

I doubt that we would even know where or when or how or why or whether to begin. Yet, WHO I AM leads us answer by answer, question by question forever and ever.]

**GOD IS OUR
RIGHTFUL RULER.**

**GOD TEACHES US
RIGHT FROM WRONG
BY REVEALING
GOD’S RULE.**

**WE ARE
RANSOMED, RESCUED,
REDEEMED, RAISED,
REFINED AND RULED
BY GOD’S LOVE,
OUR RICH REWARD.**

**REFUSED RESPECT,
THE REJECTED ROCK
REVEALS GOD’S RULE.**

**REQUEST AND
RECEIVE OUR
FATHER’S LOVE.**

[At best, we experience what is, has been and will be. At worst, we never become aware of Love in our lives. The ego-self may acknowledge love but only in a most distorted way as if somehow one controls Love. Love, on the contrary, rules us.]

Divine Love sets the limits and Love gradually lifts and expands the limits of our experience. We have freedoms but not endless free will. We have a little understanding but hardly enough even to survive. We can exercise our imaginations without the slightest idea what will or won't prove to be possible. We confuse our need with our wants and our wants with our desires. We tend to forget that we are mere humans. Love remembers and reminds us.

I doubt that God leaves anything entirely up to us except perhaps our foolish habit of resisting Love. When will we learn that response need not be a restriction but a liberation?]

Day 212

THE SON – THE SUFFERING SERVANT

**SCRIPTURE SAYS
GOD SENT THE SON**

**GOD SENT THE SON
TO SAVE US**

**TO SAVE US
FROM OURSELVES.**

**ONLY GOD’S SPIRIT
CAN GIVE US
A NEW LIFE
OF SERVICE.**

**THE SPIRIT OF GOD
MAKES US SURE
THAT SOMEDAY
WE WILL BE
SET FREE FROM
EGO-CENTREDNESS.**

**GOD SENDS
THE SPIRIT
OF THE SON
INTO OUR HEARTS.**

[I doubt that an egoless individual is either male or female. Agency is exactly conscious awareness within whatever environment and

circumstances.

The love of other-centredness is an experience of and a love for individual selfless conscious awareness in oneself and in all others.]

Day 213

THE TEACHER – TIME TESTED TRUTHS

**GOD TEACHES US
TO TURN
TO GOD
TO LEARN
THE TRUTH.**

**LOVE TIES
EVERYTHING
TOGETHER.**

**PEOPLE MUST
BE TAUGHT
TO TURN
TO GOD.**

**GOD IS
TRUTHFUL,
TRULY HOLY,
TRUSTWORTHY.**

**GOD’S BODY IS OUR TEMPLE,
OUR BODY IS GOD’S TEMPLE.**

[Yes, God sets our limits, but God also establishes our values. How would we know that we had limits unless the Absolute informed us? How would we know what was of greater value in our lives unless we were drawn towards God?

We can experience beauty and goodness and love and truth in our lives but God is the source of ever greater Good and Truth and Beauty and Love in creation.

I doubt that ugliness and evil and hatred and lies are anything other than distortions of conscious awareness by the ego-self. Whatever threatens our ego is regarded as negative. Whatever confronts our agency can be positively other, especially Pure Otherness.]

Day 214

THE UNION – AN UNSHAKEABLE UNION

**UNKNOWN,
UNFAIR?
UNLESS,
UNTIL.**

**GOD’S SPIRIT
UNITES US
IN PEACE
WITH
KINDNESS AND
UNDERSTANDING.**

**HUMANITY IS
NO LONGER UNFIT,
NO LONGER UNCLEAN.**

**YOU NOW
UNITE US
IN PEACE,
IN LOVE,
IN TRUTH.**

[We are somewhat and sometimes united in outlook: common thoughts, values, actions, attitudes. However, our perspectives are fragmentary and subject to change as we age and gain different experiences. We may end up sharing more disagreements than agreements. Peace and truth and trust and love can seem a long, long ways away.]

Yet, we are confronted by an unchanging Absolute Whose Message, Action, Promise and Power never vary. God has the power to do what God Wills endlessly. Pure Otherness is always other-centred. However, only when we have been granted an experience of other-centredness can we even begin to appreciate Pure Otherness.

Those who share in a Divine outlook know something of Love, Peace, Truth and Faith. Relationship is relatedness. I doubt that there is a greater joy than relatedness, unless it is relatedness restored.]

**THE SHEEP KNOW
THE SHEPHERD'S
VOICE.**

**DON'T CONFUSE
HUMAN VERSE
WITH GOD'S VOICE.**

**GOD IS
THE VINE,
THE TRUE VINE.**

**THE VOICE
FROM A CLOUD
OF DARKNESS,
A VOICE
FROM HEAVEN,
GOD'S VOICE
AT THE DOOR
OF OUR HEARTS.**

[We hear voices. We hear the voice of a reflecting ego very loudly and persistently. It can be a voice of common sense and of reason. However, our needs, wants and desires also have a strong say, frequently the stronger say. The voice of conscience is much quieter until aroused by a serious threat to ourselves and possibly to others. There is yet another helpful voice that is rarely insistent but always there pointing out the loved and the admired, the beautiful and the great, the true and the enduring, the good and the highly valued.

There are still other voices to hear and possibly to heed. Our family,

past or present, friends near or far, those in authority and those under our care speak to us frequently. There are the intrusive or unintrusive voices of strangers, of acquaintances, fellow travellers. Many, many voices vie for our attention each day.

God being God can enter into any of those voices or other voices of nature. However, God's Voice has a clarity, a conciseness, a consistency, a coherence, a comprehensiveness and a consequentiality all God's own. God utters Loving Commandments to the heart and head, to the body and soul. God's commandments are absolute but not necessarily immediate. It is up to us to acknowledge the absolute nature of God's authority. Too often we realize eventually that there is no other way forward. Sometimes we are blessed to see a joyful, gracious route ahead.

I doubt that the Voice of Pure Otherness can be confused with any other voice.]

**GOD IS
AT WORK
WITHIN US.**

**GOD WORKS
WONDERS
WHEN WE
ARE WEAK.**

**WE CAN
BE MADE
WILLING
AND ABLE
TO DO GOD’S
WILL.**

**LOVE IS
THE WAY
GOD’S WILL
WORKS.**

[Only God can do God’s will. From time to time, God may choose to work in and through us for the good of others. Those can be truly wonderful times. However, we don’t get to choose when to do God’s will. For much of our lives, we are allowed to live out our own humanity in freedom. We should not pretend always to be doing or even to be wanting to do God’s work. Only God does God’s work.]

I doubt that we even know at times when God is using us.
When will we learn that we do not tell God what to do?]

Day 217

THE EXPERIENCE – EXCELLENT EXAMPLE

THE SUFFERING SERVANT

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

OFFSPRING OF GOD

OFFSPRING OF MAN

THE MESSIAH

WITHOUT SIN

OUR SAVIOUR

OUR CERTAINTY

THE CORNER STONE

A SPIRITUAL SACRIFICE

GOD’S OBEDIENT SLAVE

THE SUBJECT OF SCRIPTURE

THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

THE SOURCE OF ETERNAL LIFE

[When we are inclined to complain about our lot in life, maybe we should reconsider what Christ’s lot in life was and is and will be like.

What time and place could be totally beyond God's time and place. If God can live in our experience, then with God's help we can too.

I doubt that we sense Christ's suffering or sense it often enough.]

Day 218

THE YES – YOUR YOKE

**YOUR AUTHORITATIVE ACTS
YOUR BURDEN OF BLESSINGS
YOUR COMPLETE COMMANDMENTS**

**YOUR DEMANDS OF DUTY
YOUR ETERNAL ENDURANCE
YOUR FAITHFUL FREEDOM**

**YOUR GRACIOUS GUIDANCE
YOUR HOPE AND HAPPINESS
YOUR INSTRUCTIVE INSIGHTS**

**YOUR JUST JUDGMENTS
YOUR KINGDOM OF KINDNESS
YOUR LOVING LEADERSHIP**

**YOUR MEANINGFUL MESSAGE
YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF NEW LIFE
YOUR OBVIOUS OBEDIENCE**

**YOUR POWER, PATIENCE AND PEACE
YOUR QUIET CONQUEST
YOUR RIGHTFUL RULE**

**YOUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE
YOUR TRUTHFUL TEACHINGS
YOUR UNQUESTIONABLE UNDERSTANDING**

**YOUR VICTORIOUS VOICE
YOUR WAY, YOUR WORD, YOUR WORK,
YOUR WILL
YOUR EXTRAORDINARY EXPLANATION**

**YOUR YES
OUR ZENITH'S ZERO.**

[A burden of blessings is the yoke that God offers us. We are laden down with endless riches. We stagger under the load of goodness, truth and beauty. All we can say is yes and give thanks. All we can do is attempt to share our burden of blessings with others.

I doubt that we have even the slightest idea what new kindness God will burden us with today and in the future.]

Day 219

OUR ZENITH – THE ZEALOT’S ZERO

Z X Y T

[We have been created, seen and loved.

I doubt that we are to favour a fictitious ego over real otherness. A nano second after each of us dies our egos will be gone and all but forgotten. Nevertheless, God, if Love wills, can preserve our love of other-centredness.]

Days of AUTHORITATIVE ACTS

Day 220

**GOD ACCEPTING – ANNOUNCING AND
ACKNOWLEDGING**

**GOD’S ACT
MAKES US ALL
ACCEPTABLE.**

**WE HAVE THE
ASSURANCE
OF GOD’S NEW
AGREEMENT.**

**ALWAYS
ANSWER
ANYONE
WHO ASKS
ABOUT GOD’S
ACCEPTANCE.**

**LET GOD’S LOVE
MAKE YOU
ALIVE AND
ACTIVE.**

[How can we possibly justify our existence? God is our justification. Life is a gift to be enjoyed, not endured. God can enable us to live life to the full.

I doubt that life can evolve in ways other than God intends.]

Day 221

**GOD BEARING – BELIEVING AND BEARING
FRUIT**

**GOD’S BODY
OF BELIEVERS
BEAR FRUIT
OF GOD’S BLOOD:**

**BEING ACCEPTED
BEING BLESSED
BEING CHRIST CONSCIOUS
BEING DEVOTED
BEING ENGAGING
BEING FAITHFUL AND FORGIVING
BEING GODLIKE
BEING HUMBLE AND HELPFUL
BEING INNOCENT
BEING A JUST JUDGE
BEING KIND
BEING LIVELY
BEING MERCIFUL
BEING NEAR BY
BEING OBEDIENT
BEING PEACEFUL
BEING QUIET
BEING REBORN
BEING STRONG AND SINCERE
BEING TRUTHFUL AND TRUSTWORTHY
BEING UNITED AND UNDERSTANDING
BEING VIRTUOUS AND VICTORIOUS
BEING MADE WORTHY
BEING EXALTED
BEING YOKED
BEING ZEALOUS.**

[I doubt that one can be both ego-centred and other-centred at the same time. Being ego-centred is to focus on and reflect upon a specific emotional or spiritual or intellectual or physical experience. Out of this we continue to develop a personal story.

Being other-centred is to respond with a much fuller experience. We are less restricted and more open to wide ranging otherness experiences. We search for new experiential relationships.

The response to Pure Otherness is a total response in which our emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical functions are united in fuller possible experience. When God says “I,” we may be enabled to respond to God’s commands.]

Day 222

GOD CREATING – CHRIST’S CONSTANT CARE

**CHRIST GIVES US
THE COURAGE
AND
THE CONFIDENCE
TO COME TO GOD.**

**THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST
IS OUR
CONSTANT COMPANION.**

**LET CHRIST
BE CLOSER
THAN CLOTHING.**

**LET THE PEACE
OF CHRIST
CONTROL YOUR
CONSCIOUSNESS.**

**GOD CONQUERS
WITH CHRIST’S CROSS
AND COMMANDS
CREATION.**

[We sometimes think and act as if creation was said and done. Yet, God creates anew. God creates us and gives us conscious awareness of

acts of creation. If God makes us aware of God, what more could we hope for?

There is a temptation to look down on the “less fortunate” as if we were better off. Without God, we are all nothing. With God, we are all beyond belief. Yet, God gives us even more. God makes us consciously aware of one another and of God’s Love for us all.

I doubt that we make good judges of values in life.]

Day 223

**GOD DELIVERING – BEING DRAWN TO THE
DIVINE DOOR**

**TO DO WORK
THAT CAN
ONLY
BE DONE
BY DIVINE
DEVOTION.**

**DAY BY DAY
GOD DESTROYS
DEMONS,
HEALS DISEASES
AND DEFEATS
DEATH.**

**HE ALSO
DISMISSES,
DEPARTS FROM
AND DELIVERS UP
EVIL SPIRITS.**

[What do all our humans efforts amount to but short-term fictions and fantasies? I doubt that we can create anything of lasting value. Nevertheless, we find that we have endless opportunities to love.]

Day 224

**GOD ESTABLISHING – THE ENDLESS, EVER-
LASTING AND ETERNAL**

**EMMANUAL ENTERS
OUR LIVES FROM
THE EAST,
ELIMINATING EVIL
BY MAKING
EVERYTHING NEW.**

**BEING STRONG
ENOUGH
TO ENDURE
EVERY EVIL.**

**THERE IS
NO HUMAN WAY
AND SO
NO EFFECTIVE
EFFORT TO
CHRIST-CONSCIOUS
ENLIGHTENMENT.**

[Christ consciousness would seem to be more outward than inward. Why look to ourselves if we can do nothing lasting without God? Since God creates, God can certainly recreate. Our word is not permanent. God's kingdom abounds.]

I doubt that certain truths exist for us except in terms of logical necessity. Reflected awareness can be both true and false at the same

time. When we reflect, we are no longer in the present. We live in the present but we think about the past. Truth can exist for us and yet be inaccessible. Try to be very clear as to what is logical and illogical. However, know that love defies our logic.]

Day 225

**GOD FREEING – FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING IN
CHRIST’S FOOTSTEPS**

**FAITHFUL FATHER
FREEING US AND
FEEDING US
WITH YOUR LOVE.**

**FORGIVING OUR
EGO-CENTREDNESS
AND
FREEING US OF
SELFISHNESS
FOR GOOD.**

**LET THE SPIRIT
FILL OUR LIVES
WITH FAITH AND
FRUITFULNESS.**

**GOD’S FRUIT
WILL FLOURISH.**

[Christ called God, Father, and invites us to do the same. Christ is one with the Father and would be one with us. Christ is sent to do the Father’s work and leads us in that work.

When God says I AM YOUR FATHER, we should listen. I doubt that our failure to listen will lessen God’s faithfulness but it will greatly

limit our emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical wellbeing.
God is involved in any lasting work.]

Day 226

**GOD GIVING – BEING GUIDED BY GOD’S
GRACE**

**THE GUIDANCE,
THE GLORY
AND THE GIFT
OF GOD’S LOVE.**

**GLORIFY GOD
AND GIVE
GENEROUSLY
OF GOD’S GIFTS.**

**GOD GIVES
US GLIMPSES
OF GOD’S GLORY.**

**GLADLY GIVING
OF GOD’S
GRACIOUS GIFTS.**

[To glimpse God’s Glory is more than we can ask for.

God shields us from God’s overwhelming Glory. One can be so ungrateful not to be content with a glimpse of God’s Glory. Hopefully part of that discontent is God’s willingness to give us further glimpses as God makes us able to receive them.

I doubt that we can ever be fully prepared for God’s surprising grace.]

Day 227

**GOD HEALING – HELPING HUMANITY TO
BECOME WHOLE**

**CHRIST GAVE OVER
DIVINITY
AND
CHRIST GAVE OVER
HUMANITY.**

**GOD LEADS
US TO BE
HOLY
AS GOD
IS
HOLY.**

**BE HEALED
BY HEARING
AND HAVING
FAITH IN
GOD ALONE.**

**LET GOD
MAKE YOU
HOPEFUL
AND
WHOLE.**

[When we first seek to become well and then whole, I doubt that we

start with other-centredness. Yet, God approaches us as Pure Otherness. God heals by having us turn away from ego-centredness. God would have us love as we are loved.]

Day 228

**GOD INFORMING – INITIATING IRONIC
INSIGHTS**

**WHAT ANSWERS COULD BE ASKED FOR
OR WHAT BLASPHEMIES BELIEVED?**

**WHAT COMMANDS COULD BE COMPLETED
OR WHAT DEATH DEFEATED?**

**WHAT EVIL COULD BE ENDURED
OR WHAT FAITHFUL FATHER KNOWN?**

**WHAT GLORIOUS GOOD COULD BE SEEN AND HEARD
OR WHAT HOLY HAPPINESS FELT?**

**WHAT INNOCENT INVOLVEMENT COULD WE HAVE
OR WHAT JUSTIFYING JUDGMENT MAKE?**

**WHAT KINGDOM OF KINDNESS COULD BE SERVED
OR WHAT LOVE – LIFE – LIGHT DISCOVERED?**

**WHAT MERE HUMAN COULD BE MERCIFUL
OR WHAT NEW NEED MADE NECESSARY?**

**WHAT OBEDIENCE COULD BE SO OFFENSIVE
OR WHAT PEACE PROVE TO BE PERFECT?**

**WHAT QUIETNESS COULD BE SO QUESTIONING
OR WHAT REALITY REVEALED?**

**WHAT SPIRITUAL SIGN COULD BE GIVEN
OR WHAT TRADITIONAL TEACHING TRANSFORMED?**

**WHAT UNDERSTANDING COULD BE SO UNITING
OR WHAT VICTORY AS VIRTUOUS?**

**WHAT WEAKNESS COULD BE MADE WONDEROUS
OR WHAT EXPERIENCE SO EXALTING?**

**WHAT YOKE SHOULD BE YEARNED FOR
OR WHAT ZERO OUR ZENITH?**

[Where would we begin? We would begin with ourselves and get nowhere. If we begin with Pure Otherness, we will be shown other-centredness. I doubt that the first Love commandment could be second or the second first. We need to respond to God's Love.]

Day 229

GOD JUSTIFYING – JUSTIFYING OUR JOY

**GOD CAN ACT OUT OUR ACCEPTANCE
AND BLESS OUR BELIEFS**

**GOD CAN CONQUER OUR CRUELTY
AND DEFEAT OUR DESPAIR**

**GOD CAN ENDURE OUR EVIL
AND FULFILL OUR FUTURE**

**GOD CAN GLORIFY GOD
AND HEAL OUR HOPELESSNESS**

**GOD CAN INSPIRE OUR IDEALS
AND JUSTIFY OUR JUDGMENTS**

**GOD CAN KINDLE OUR KINDNESSES
AND LIGHT UP OUR LIVES WITH LOVE**

**GOD CAN MEASURE OUT OUR MERCY
AND KNOW OUR NATURES**

**GOD CAN OVERCOME OUR OPPOSITION
AND PREVENT OUR PRETENTIOUSNESS**

**GOD CAN QUELL OUR QUARRELSOMENESS
AND RESTORE OUR REASON**

**GOD CAN SAVE OUR SELVES
AND TEACH US TRUTHS**

GOD CAN UNITE OUR USEFULNESS

AND VINDICATE OUR VISIONS

**GOD CAN WITNESS OUR WEAKNESS
AND EXCITE OUR EXPECTATIONS**

**GOD CAN YOKE OUR YEARNING
AND ZERO OUR ZEAL.**

[Human freedom is so very difficult to understand when God can do so much. Perhaps God transforms the best that we are into an acceptable offering. God has given us a joy of being.

I doubt that God will take that joy away.]

Day 230

**GOD KEEPING – BEING KEPT IN THE KING-
DOM OF GOD’S KINDNESS**

**LET THE
HOLY SPIRIT
KEEP YOUR
EYES ON
YOUR KING
WHO MAKES
YOUR FAITH
COMPLETE.**

**LET US
BE RULED
BY GOD’S
KINDNESS
AT WORK IN
ALL CREATION.**

**GOD’S KINGDOM
HAS ALREADY
COME CLOSE.**

[God changes stone-cold hearts of ego-centredness into living loving hearts of other-centredness. Then we attempt to divide up other-centredness into larger ego-centred stone structures. However, Christ Jesus calls us all to congregate, not to build churches; to commune, not to reside in communities; to receive faith, not to uphold religions.

I really doubt that our positive or negative beliefs have much to do

with God's work. We need to recognize that fact in order to realize what God has done, what God is doing and what God will do. God may be at work within us and for the most part we neither know, nor care.]

**LET CHRIST’S LOVE
MAKE YOU ALIVE.**

**THE LORD
WILL LET
YOU LIVE
A LIFE
OF LOVE.**

**LEARN
TO LIVE
BY THE LIGHT
OF GOD’S LOVE.**

**LET LOVE
BE YOUR
GUIDE AS
YOU LEARN
TO LIVE
LIKE PEOPLE
OF THE LIGHT.**

[Has God suddenly turned away from humanity? Yet again our thinking, has reversed our reality. Once again humanity is thinking and acting as if it can live alone. God will have none of it.

You have been told that to say you love God while hating your brother

or sister is to lie. You cannot love the Unseen if you cannot even love the seen. Perhaps we need also to consider the reverse.

How can one love a brother or a sister whom one has seen in all their weakness and cruelty and ego-centredness if one does not love God Whom one has not seen? God is calling forth all that is good and true and beautiful beyond our wildest imagining. I doubt that the Unseen will ever be dependent upon the seen. Let the Unknown Love and Good and True and Perfect lead us.]

Day 232

**GOD MEASURING – MARVELLING AT GOD’S
MERCY AND MIGHT**

**THE MYSTERY OF
GOD’S MERCY
AND MIGHT.**

**EMMANUEL,
THE MESSIAH, IS
GOD’S MESSAGE.**

**GOD MAKES US
MEASURE THE
AMOUNT OF
OUR FAITH.**

**SPIRITUALLY,
WE MUST BE
MADE MORE
AND MORE
MERCIFUL.**

[God’s Way, Word, Work and Will are fundamental. Our ways, words, works and wills are incidental. God gives us the freedom to respond to a Divine alignment or not. Nevertheless, God’s Will transpires and endures. Our wills may not even transpire let alone endure.

Yet God wills a place for humanity, each and everyone of us, in Christ. We are born, we grow and grow in some cases even to a mature blos-

soming and we die. Our lasting value rests entirely with God.

For however long, we contribute our experience of conscious awareness. I doubt that this is an absurdity. Conscious awareness does not rest with an absurdity. We are logical creature.]

That a flower should bloom for only an hour...
Have you ever heard of a thing so absurd ?

That a flower should bloom for only an hour...
Have you ever heard of a thing so absurd !

Day 233

**GOD KNOWING – KNOWING AND KNEELING
AT GOD’S NAME**

**NO ONE
IN ANY NATION
SHOULD NOT
KNOW GOD’S NAME.**

**KNEELING
TO PRAISE
GOD’S NAME
DAY AND
NIGHT.**

**LET GOD MAKE
YOU A NEIGHBOUR
TO THE NEEDY.**

**BE KNOWN AS
A NEW PERSON
SERVING IN
A NEW WAY.**

[Rejoice and thank God, not only for life’s blessings, but especially for releases from ego-centredness. Divine Love and Peace and Truth and Joy are not to be found within ourselves except as a human response to other-centredness.

We cannot conquer the absurdities of an ego-centred life. We are lost

in the face of death or insignificance or ignorance or arrogance. There is no way home. There is no home.

I doubt that we belong anywhere other than with God. Omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal are human words and human concepts that don't even begin to describe God's Love and Goodness and Greatness and Glory.

If only we could receive a glimpse of the Gladness of God. Among us and between us and around us and within us, there is a Love that we cannot even begin to appreciate.]

Day 234

GOD OBEYING – OBEYING THE ONLY ONE

**JESUS IS
THE ONLY ONE
WHO OBEYS GOD.**

**HONOUR
AND OBEY
ONLY GOD
OUR CREATOR.**

**THE ONES
WHO OBEY
OFFER UP
THEIR LIVES
IN SERVICE.**

**THE OLD ORDER,
THE OLD PERSON,
THE OLD WAYS,
ARE OFFENDED
BY THE NEW.**

[God takes great pleasure, it would seem, in creating things of beauty. God is greatly delighted, it would seem, whenever we desire to be like the Beloved. God is very glad, we have been told, to give us all manner of benefits. God shares in our living joy of conscious awareness. We get to respond to and to reflect the faintest shadows of Divine Light.

God creates and God guides in the recreation of beauty, goodness, truth and life. At best, we reflect weak imitations of Divine creations. At worst, we lose sight entirely of the Glory of God.

I doubt that humanity can appreciate what God has done and what God is doing because we can only begin to imagine what God is like. We need to return to the wonderous past age of childhood when everything was gloriously new.]

Day 235

**GOD PROCLAIMING – PRAISING GOD’S
PATIENCE AND POWER**

**GOD’S SPIRIT
IS AT WORK
PREACHING PEACE
TO THE POOR.**

**PETER ACTED
EMOTIONALLY,
IMPULSIVELY,
PRE-REFLECTIVELY;
PAUL ACTED
RATIONALLY,
DELIBERATELY,
POST-REFLECTIVELY;
GOD ACTS
SPIRITUALLY,
LOVINGLY,
PRESENTLY.**

[Only God can deliver us from a restless spiritual poverty. An ego-centred love or peace or truth or will cannot be sustained. Why do we fight for our feebleness when God offers such strength? God will not coerce or be coerced but God is there to guide us in love.

Even chosen disciples were so very limited by their humanity.

I doubt that we could begin to imagine the positive future that God has already prepared. We will continually test the bounds of ego-centredness. However, God will always be ready to lead us towards other-centredness.]

Day 236

**GOD QUESTIONING – QUICKENING
QUESTIONS**

**HOW CAN WE REPLACE
DIVINE COMMANDMENTS
WITH HUMAN CONDITIONS?**

**CAN WE GIVE
AND FORGIVE AS
WE ARE GIVEN
AND FORGIVEN?**

WHAT DO WE DOUBT?

**DO WE WANT
TO BECOME WELL?**

**IF EVIL IS DIVIDED
HOW CAN IT ENDURE?
CAN EVIL EXPEL EVIL?**

**WHERE WOULD WE
LOOK FOR GOD?**

[Everyone who asks, receives. In fact, we are receiving long before we ask. However, for our sakes, God also asks things of us, things that we can accomplish only with God's help.]

Why, how, who, when, where, what we ask; as if we thought we already had or knew the answers in advance. Yet, God's answers so exceed our questions that we hardly recognize the questions in the answers.

Where? Anywhere, everywhere.

When? Whenever, anytime.

Who? God alone can say but often through one another.

How? According to God's Will.

Why? God is Pure Otherness.

I doubt that we need to try so hard because God is making the response easy and us willing.]

Day 237

**GOD REVEALING – RECEIVING AND RELYING
ON GOD’S RULE**

**GOD CAN MAKE US
READY AND EAGER
TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT.**

**BE DEEPLY
ROOTED IN
GOD’S LOVE BY
REQUESTING
GOD’S RULE.**

**RESCUED
FROM SELF
AND
RAISED
TO SERVICE.**

**GOD REVEALS
THE RIGHT
RELATIONSHIP.**

[There are rules to guide the spirit that are stronger than the physical laws that govern the body. We are drawn towards other-centredness however much we dwell in ego-centredness. Isolation is not a stable state. We need interaction.

In ego-centred relationships, each will try to dominate. In other-cen-

tred relationships, each will try to serve. There are times when leadership is proper and service improper. There are other times when leadership is improper and service is the better option. God's guidance is always proper and our service is always expected in response to Pure Otherness.

I doubt that either true leadership or service is devoid of love.]

**LET THE SPIRIT
SING AND SOAR.**

**LET THE STRENGTH
OF THE SPIRIT
MAKE YOU STRONG.**

**THE SPIRIT
GIVES US ALL
A SPECIAL WAY
OF SERVING.**

**SERVE GOD
BY OBEYING
GOD’S SPIRIT.**

**SERVE AND SUFFER
WITH THE STRENGTH
THAT GOD SUPPLIES.**

[God does not measure things by our standards. The finite is measured by the Infinite, the Infinite is not measured by the finite. Unless we look to God, we can never know a truer measure of things. God creates, God evaluates, God reveals, and God restores.

The Loving Spirit enables us to respond in ways we never considered

possible. The future is in God's hands. Whether humanity reaches out to God or not, God already has a hold of us.

God is gentle with us so as not to overwhelm us. Otherwise, I doubt that we could endure an encounter with Love.]

Day 239

**GOD TRANSFORMING – BEING TURNED AND
TURNING**

**TURNING
TO THE TRUTH
TO BE TRANSFORMED:**

**TRULY ALERT AND ALIVE
TRULY BLESSED AND BAPTIZED
TRULY CARING AND COMFORTED
TRULY DELIGHTED AND DEVOTED
TRULY ENDURING AND EQUAL
TRULY FORGIVEN AND FREE
TRULY GLAD AND GOOD
TRULY HAPPY AND HUMBLE
TRULY INNOCENT AND INVOLVED
TRULY JOYFUL AND JUST
TRULY KEPT AND KIND
TRULY LIVELY AND LOVING
TRULY MERCIFUL AND MIGHTY
TRULY NAMED AND KNOWN
TRULY HONOURED AND OBEDIENT
TRULY PEACEFUL AND POWERFUL
TRULY QUESTIONED AND QUIETED
TRULY RESCUED AND REWARDED
TRULY SAVED AND SERVING
TRULY TAUGHT AND TRANSFORMED
TRULY UNDERSTANDING AND UNITED
TRULY VICTORIOUS AND VIRTUOUS
TRULY WEALTHY AND WISE
TRULY EXPERIENCED AND EXEMPLARY
TRULY YIELDING AND YOKED**

TRULY ZEALOUS AND ZEROED.

**PEOPLE MUST
BE TAUGHT TO
TURN TO GOD.**

[We cannot fill fine words with content. Only God can turn us towards the light. If we try to live by our own lights, we grow dim and darken. Ego-centredness becomes self-defeating. I doubt that other-centredness is much better if we view it as an extension of ego-centredness.

We need to take note of radical changes in perspective.]

Day 240

**GOD UNITING – UNWILLING TO DISMISS
UNBELIEVERS**

WE THOUGHT AND WE WERE

**UNACCEPTABLE AND UNAWARE
UNBELIEVING AND UNBOWED
UNCERTAIN AND UNCOMFORTED
UNDESERVING AND UNDESCERNING
UNEASY AND UNEQUAL
UNFIT AND UNFULFILLED
UNGRATEFUL AND UNGUIDED
UNHAPPY AND UNHOLY
UNINFORMED AND UNINSPIRED
UNJOINED AND UNJUST
UNKIND AND UNKINDLED
UNLAWFUL AND UNLOVING
UNMERCIFUL AND UNMINDFUL
UNNAMED AND UNNECESSARY
UNOBSERVED AND UNOPEN
UNPERCEIVING AND UNPERSUADED
UNQUESTIONED AND UNQUIETED
UNREPENTENT AND UNRIGHTEOUS
UNSATISFIED AND UNSPIRITUAL
UNTAUGHT AND UNTRUSTWORTHY
UNUSED AND UNUSEFUL
UNVOICED AND UNVICTORIOUS
UNAWAKENED AND UNWILLING
UNEXCITED AND UNEXPECTANT
UNYIELDING AND UNYOKED
UNZEALOUS AND UNZEROED**

BUT NOW WE CAN KNOW

**WE ARE UNITED
IN GOD'S ULTIMATE
UNDERSTANDING.**

[God does not dismiss us. God works with our weaknesses. God knows and cares. Incremental steps lead to the hope and assurance of greater fulfillment. In spite of backsliding or even a complete falling away, what might have been yet could be. The hope may be the greater reality. The hope is what we strive to be.

I doubt that an egoist would have any desire to help others if he did not see his own need for help. Having been helped, helping others may seem quite natural. Yet, Divine help is infinitely beyond sympathy and empathy.]

Day 241

**GOD VOICING – VISITING WITH GOD’S
VOICE**

**GOD VISITS
THE SICK AND
THE SUFFERING.**

**GOD VISITS
THE DESPERATE
AND UNDESERVING.**

**GOD VISITS
THE PROUD
AND THE POOR.**

**GOD VISITS
THE WEAK-WILLED
AND THE WILLFUL.**

**GOD VISITS
EVERYONE
EVERYWHERE
EACH DAY.**

[Love isn't that hard to find because Love finds us. Love finds us and reassures us and councils us and leads us and enables us to act in and through Love.

God challenges us. If we respond, we grow; otherwise, love flows on. The ego-self is such a difficult illusion to overcome. Individuality is the only awareness we have. Individuality is the only thing we seem to care about and to look to and to follow after and to act upon ... until we are lifted out of ego-centredness.

Other-centredness is such a relief: love, peace, truth and relationship. However, an ego-self often must suffer many, many deaths and experience multiple re-births before a belief in the reality of other-centredness becomes an established or valued form of existence.

I doubt that our struggle is with individuality but with ego-centredness. Our individuality must be seen in relationship or it is bounded and unbounding.]

Day 242

**GOD WILLING – WORSHIPING GOD AND
WALKING IN GOD’S WAY**

**WHO IS GOD
AND HOW CAN
GOD BE KNOWN?**

**WHY DOES GOD
COMMAND US
TO LOVE AND PRAY?**

**WHERE ELSE WILL WE GO
WHEN GOD IS THE WORD
AND THE WAY?**

**WHETHER WE LIVE OR DIE
WHAT ELSE MATTERS?**

**IN WHICH WAY
WILL WE
SERVE GOD?**

[God prepares before and after promising to prepare. God provides before and after promising to provide. God promotes before and after promising to promote. God gives peace before and after promising to give peace.]

I doubt that we would even know what to ask for. How can we know what we will need?]

Day 243

**GOD EXPLAINING – EXPRESSING
EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE**

EXEMPLARS OF EXPERIENTIALISM

**APOSTLES OF DIVINE AUTHORITY
BELIEVERS IN DIVINE BLESSINGS
COMMUNICANTS OF DIVINE COMMANDMENTS
DISCIPLES OF DIVINE DELIVERANCE
ENVOYS OF DIVINE ENDURANCE
FOLLOWERS OF DIVINE FORGIVENESS
GIVERS OF DIVINE GLADNESS
HELPERS OF DIVINE HEALING
INTERPRETERS OF DIVINE INSIGHTS
JEWS AND GENTILES BY DIVINE JUDGMENT
KEEPERS OF THE DIVINE KINGDOM
LEARNERS OF THE DIVINE LIGHT
MISSIONARIES OF DIVINE MERCY
KNOWERS OF DIVINE NEWNESS
OBSERVERS OF DIVINE OPPORTUNITY
PEOPLES OF DIVINE PEACE
THE QUICKENED BY DIVINE QUESTIONS
THE RELEASED BY DIVINE RULE
SERVANTS OF DIVINE STRENGTH
TEACHERS OF DIVINE TRUTH
UNITERS BY DIVINE UNDERSTANDING
VALUERS OF DIVINE VIRTUES
WORKERS OF DIVINE WISDOM
EXEMPLARS OF DIVINE EXPERIENCE
YEARNERS FOR THE DIVINE YOKE
ZEALOTS OF THE DIVINE ZENITH.**

[I doubt that we can ever truly mistake the sacred for the secular or the secular for the sacred. The secular is so uncertain, so fragile, so brief. The sacred is so certain, so strong and eternal. The secular is concerned with personal fears and anxieties and questions and hope. The sacred is concerned with Divine Love and Peace and Truth and Faith. Look to the better feeling, the better evaluation, the better logic and the better action in unison.

The sacred is absolute. The secular is relative.]

Day 244

**GOD YOKING – YEARNING FOR GOD’S
SPIRITUAL YOKE**

**WHY DO YOU
NEED TO SEEK
SPIRITUAL SIGNS?
LOVE AND LIVE.**

**WHY ARE YOU SO FEARFUL?
HAVE YOU NO FAITH?
HOPE AND HELP.**

**WHY DID YOU TRY
AND TEST YOUR GOD?
TEACH GOD’S TRUTHS.**

**WHY DO YOU
STRUGGLE
AGAINST GOD’S YOKE?
YIELD AND YEARN.**

**SING OF GOD’S STRENGTH
AND CELEBRATE GOD’S LOVE.**

[What better spiritual signs are there than renewed life and love? Imagine trying to live life’s struggle without faith. God’s truths are absolute. Sing and celebrate the strength of God’s Love.]

I think we experience a subjective synthesis and an objective unison.
I doubt that we experience synthesis objectively and unison subjectively. Conscious awareness is both comprehension and coordination.
God is both within and without.]

Day 245

GOD BEING ZEALOUS – ZEROING

ZYXT

**WE SEEK
AND SEARCH
AND NEVER SEE
GOD RIGHT
BEFORE OUR EYES.**

[From the beginning until the end, the Way, Word, Work and Will of God transpires. Christ is the Love and Peace and Truth and Faith, given the life of the Holy Spirit within human form. God is with the whole of creation every step of the way. Without God, there is no creation. When God's speaks God first addresses the Holy Spirit within creation. Creation with God has endurance, significance, knowledge and compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience...

To be part of God's creation is breathtakingly beyond imagination. I doubt that we have even begun to imagine our place within creation. God willing, we will learn our way, our word, our work and our will as humanity. We will learn to love in peace and truth with faith through the Holy Spirit within us. When God speaks, God first addresses the Holy Spirit within us.]

Days of the Holy Spirit

Day 246

**GOD SINGING – CREATION SINGING OF
GOD’S GLORY**

**LET THE SPIRIT SING
OF LIGHT AND LIFE,
OF LAWS AND LOVE.**

**ONLY LOVE’S LAWS
LEAD TO NEW LIFE.**

**GOD’S LAWS
OF LOVE
ARE A LIGHT
FOR ALL NATIONS.**

**LET LOVE LEAD
AND LIBERATE.**

**LOVE ALONE
ALLOWS US
TO SUBMIT
TO LOVE
AND
TO SERVE.**

[The humanly inconceivable is second nature to God. God simply creates. God creates what God loves and loves what God creates. If we would perceive an act of God, we must try to detect an act of Love.

I doubt that the strictly ego-centred can conceive of other-centredness. I doubt that Pure Otherness makes any sense at all to the strictly ego-centred. Ego-centredness can be such a distortion of the song of love. Unconditional love is other-centred.]

Day 247

**GOD SUFFERING – GOD’S SUFFERING
SERVICE**

**THE SUFFERING SERVANT
IN SACRIFICING LIFE
REVEALS THE SPIRIT.**

**SUFFERING SERVICE
AND SACRIFICE
ARE SIGNS OF
SPIRITUAL STRENGTH.**

**THOSE WHO
HAVE SERVED
AND THOSE WHO
HAVE SUFFERED
BY GOD’S STRENGTH
HAVE BEEN CLEANSED
WITH GOD’S LOVE.**

**SACRIFICE SHOWS
THAT WE CAN STOP
SERVING OURSELVES.**

[God suffers with us. What we endure, God endures with us. All of our emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical pain and suffering are not new to God. God has conquered much, much worse. The strength of God is revealed in our weakness.]

God suffers with us to show us ways to overcome our pain and suffering. When we alleviate pain and suffering, we alleviate it with God's help. The Holy Spirit is incarnate in the whole of creation. God is within the creative life force.

I doubt that evil is anything other than a distortion of the good. The Good is fundamental. Love is Absolute.]

**IF YOU
WOULD BE
LIKE GOD,
FIRST LEARN
WHAT GOD
IS LIKE.**

**GIVE OF THE
GOOD GIFTS
THAT GOD
HAS GIVEN YOU.**

**WHEN GOD SENDS US
OUT WITH NOTHING,
WHAT DO WE NEED?**

**CONFESS AND
CELEBRATE
FROM THE HEART
AND FROM THE HEAD.**

[Incarnation is just as much a fact of life now as it ever was and ever will be. God participates in God's creation. Just because the universe does not evolve the way humanity thinks it should is no reason to discount the presence of God. God discloses more than we are currently able to comprehend. God leads us on.

I doubt that humanity will ever catch up to what God intends us to be emotionally, spiritually, intellectually or physically. God is Good. We are forever playing catch up.]

**DURING THE FOURTH WATCH
GOD COMES WALKING
THROUGH THE WIND AND THE WAVES
TO WHERE WE ARE AND WE WORSHIP GOD.**

**WE WONDER
WHEN WE SEE
HUMANS MADE WHOLE
AND WE WORSHIP.**

**WHILE
THE ONE
WITHOUT SIN
DOES NOT THROW
THE FIRST STONE,
THOSE GIVEN EARS
LISTEN TO LOVE
AND PRACTICE
GOD’S PATIENCE
AND PEACE.**

[God comes to us in ways we cannot deny and at times we do not expect and we worship God. God’s presence fills us with wonder and we worship God. God forgives our failures and shortcomings and we worship God.

I doubt that there is any other immediate response to God other than worship. We rightly get angry at or frustrated with and deny false

beliefs in God. We wrongly praise or profess and get comfortable with false beliefs in God. We truly worship only God. If you do not worship God in Spirit and in Truth, perhaps you have yet to encounter God.

Who or what do you attempt to worship?]

Day 250

GOD GUARDING – GUARDING WITH GOD

**TO BE
KEPT BUSY
DOING DEEDS
THAT BRING
GLORY TO GOD.**

**GOD SAYS
TO HUMANITY
BE HUMBLE,
BE HEALED,
BE WHOLE.**

**LISTEN
AND
LEARN
TO
LOVE.**

[The only thing that truly matters is Love. Love is preserved in all that truly matters. I doubt that humanity will ever know how to preserve love.]

Days of the Son
(partially repeated)

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS BORN, I AM.

John 8: 58

The implications of these truly, truly statements are very difficult to understand. The human being Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah, identifies with God the I AM.

Emmanuel, God with us, says: love your enemies and pray for those who hurt you. Then you too will be children of your Father in Heaven.

In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God,

and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through Him,

and without Him nothing was made that was made.

In Him was life and the life was the light of all peoples.

And the light shines in the darkness

and the darkness did not overcome it.

John 1: 1-5

[Scripture just gets more and more difficult to understand until Pure Otherness is revealed.

I doubt that life itself has much meaning without a sense of Pure Otherness.

Pure Otherness alters everything.]

Day 252

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

UNLESS ONE IS *BORN AGAIN*,

ONE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

John 3: 3

To be born of the Spirit of other-centredness is awe inspiring.
To become ego-forgetful is an amazing experience.

, but do not LOVE, I am nothing...

LOVE is patient, LOVE is kind.

LOVE is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

LOVE does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth.

LOVE bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,

endures all things. 1 Corinthians 13: 2-7

[LOVE is not a possession, but a being possessed. To be transformed by Pure Otherness is new life. One is transformed from ego-centredness to other-centredness in an instant. The transformation doesn't last long but the awareness can be long lasting.

I doubt that there is a greater human good than the love of Love for another.]

Day 253

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

A ROOSTER WILL NOT *CROW*

UNTIL YOU HAVE DENIED ME

THREE TIMES.

John 13: 38

If Peter could deny his best friend and Lord repeatedly, what hope have we of being any better. Our ego-selves are sure to be able to make up all manner of excuses where none exist. The point is we are all ego-centred and selfish.

IF I SPEAK IN THE TONGUES OF MORTALS AND ANGELS

BUT DO NOT HAVE LOVE,

I AM A NOISY GONG OR A CLANGING CYMBAL.

AND IF I HAVE PROPHETIC POWERS

AND UNDERSTAND ALL MYSTERIES AND ALL KNOWLEDGE

AND IF I HAVE ALL FAITH SO AS TO REMOVE MOUNTAINS

BUT DO NOT HAVE LOVE,

I AM NOTHING.

IF I GIVE AWAY ALL MY POSSESSIONS
AND IF I HAND OVER MY BODY SO THAT I MAY BOAST
BUT DO NOT HAVE LOVE,
I GAIN NOTHING.

1 Corinthians 13: 1-3

[I doubt that human speech and human actions are necessarily wrong or bad. However, unless they are Love inspired, they are of no consequence. Only Loving acts are eternal.]

Day 254

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

IF ANYONE KEEPS MY WORDS,

SUCH A PERSON WILL NEVER SEE *DEATH*.

John 8: 51

These sayings do not get any easier or harder on their way from A to Z. Keeping God's Word must be living beyond earthly life. Being born of the Spirit into other-centredness may well be timeless. Only Love endures eternally.

IF YOU KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS,

YOU WILL ABIDE IN MY LOVE,

JUST AS I HAVE KEPT MY FATHER'S COMMANDMENTS

AND ABIDE IN GOD'S LOVE.

John 15: 10

[We do not do a duty in order to earn God's Love. We do a duty because we have received God's Love. God's Love is the enabler. Yet, God can say no as well as yes, for now, just as we can say no as well as yes to Love.

I doubt that a duty of Love is ever left undone. God simply accom-

plishes the duty in another way. I suspect that evil is a deliberate separation from love. If there is no lasting separation from Love, there is no lasting consequence of evil.]

Day 255

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

THE ONE WHO BELIEVES

HAS *ETERNAL* LIFE.

John 6: 47

Believing, loving, valuing, willing are all part of God's gift of life.
Perhaps they are also part of God's gift of eternal life.

TEACHER, WHAT MUST I DO TO INHERIT ETERNAL LIFE?

WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE LAW?

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

WITH ALL YOUR HEART

AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL

AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH

AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND,

AND YOUR NEIGHBOUR

AS YOURSELF.

Luke 10: 25-27

I doubt that any individual human being can achieve the Love Commandments, save One. Christ Jesus not only fulfilled the Law of Love but enables any of us to live love through Divine awareness.

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S
AND THE FULLNESS THEREOF,
THE WORLD AND THEY
THAT DWELL THEREIN.

Psalm 24: 1

Day 256

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

THE SON CAN DO NOTHING OF HIMSELF

UNLESS IT IS SOMETHING HE SEES

THE *FATHER* DOING,

THESE THINGS THE SON ALSO DOES

IN LIKE MANNER.

John 5: 19

Jesus describes a oneness with God that we cannot begin to imagine. Yet, that oneness is offered to humanity, collectively and individually. Believe it to be true.

I AM THE WAY,

THE TRUTH

AND THE LIFE,

NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER

EXCEPT BY ME.

John 14: 6

I doubt that evidence explains these facts, but evidence witnesses to truth.

BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY
I AM IN THE FATHER
AND THE FATHER IS IN ME;
OR AT LEAST
BELIEVE ON THE EVIDENCE
OF THE WORKS THEMSELVES.

John 14: 11

[Believe also that God makes possible any good work that we accomplish.]

Day 257

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

YOU WILL SEE THE HEAVENS OPENED

AND THE ANGELS OF *GOD*

ASCENDING AND DESCENDING

ON THE SON OF MAN.

John 1:51

Jacob dreamed of a ladder from earth to heaven and angels of God ascending and descending on it. God can make our dreams a reality. I doubt that my beliefs in angels matters very much. What matters is acknowledging that God is able to do whatever God Wills.

THY KINGDOM COME,

THY WILL BE DONE

ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

Matthew 6: 10

[Prayer is less a request and more an acknowledgment. God is fulfilling our needs before we ask.]

Day 258

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

WHOEVER *HEARS* MY WORD

AND BELIEVES WHO SENT ME

***HAS* ETERNAL LIFE**

AND DOES NOT COME INTO JUDGMENT

BUT PASSES OUT OF DEATH INTO LIFE.

John 5: 24

Abundant life is not something we earn through an act of belief. Life beyond life is yet another act of love. Belief is the realization of Love.

THIS IS LOVE:

NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD

BUT THAT GOD LOVED US.

1 John 4: 10

[I doubt that we alone can perform an act of belief. Belief is an act performed within us.]

Day 259

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP.

John 10: 7

The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want. God leads us, God guides us, God accompanies us. God's rod and staff show us our limits and protect us from evils without and within. (Psalm 23)

FOR GOD'S NAME'S SAKE.

FOR GOD'S HOLY NAME

FOR GOD'S NAMESAKE.

[I doubt that we are ever ready for the renewed revelation of God's nature and namesake. Pure Otherness is God's incomprehensible gift to humanity.]

Day 260

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

YOU WILL WEEP AND LAMENT

BUT THE WORLD WILL REJOICE.

YOU WILL GRIEVE

BUT YOUR GRIEF WILL BE TURNED TO *JOY*.

John 16: 20

Why would a Good God allow such things to happen to humanity, to us, to me? We may not know why but God does. At the very least, we can still believe that God's Love and God's Will are far stronger than any troubles that come to us.

FOR I AM CONVINCED

THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE,

NEITHER ANGELS NOR DEMONS,

NEITHER PRESENT NOR FUTURE,

NOR ANY POWERS,

NEITHER HEIGHT NOT DEPTH,

NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION,

WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US
FROM THE LOVE OF GOD
THAT IS IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

Romans 8: 37-39

It is not that we love God first but that God loves us first and last that matters. God puts Love first and last. I doubt that anything human or inhuman can separate us from the Love of God.

WHO SHALL SEPARATE US
FROM THE LOVE OF CHRIST?
SHALL TROUBLE OR HARSHIP
OR PERSECUTION OR FAMINE
OR NAKEDNESS OR DANGER OR SWORD?
YET FOR GOD'S SAKE WE FACE DEATH ALL DAY LONG;
WE ARE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED.

Romans 8: 34-36

[God puts Love first and last. There are fates far worse than death. It is not what we believe at the time; it is what we believe over time. God proves to be faithful when we aren't.]

Day 261

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

UNLESS ONE IS BORN OF WATER

AND OF THE SPIRIT,

ONE CANNOT ENTER INTO GOD'S *KINGDOM*.

John 3: 5

We are all born in a watery environment. We are all ego-centred survival beings. However, we are also born into a Spiritual environment. We can become other-centred eternal beings. Yet spirituality is not natural. Spirituality must be acknowledged and received and accepted, over and over and over again.

FLESH GIVES BIRTH TO FLESH,

BUT THE SPIRIT GIVES BIRTH TO SPIRIT.

John 3: 6

Even though other-centredness is unlimited, other-centredness has a repeated beginning. There cannot be other-centredness for those who continually deny or reject other-centredness. Nevertheless, even those who have accepted other-centredness will continually return to ego-centredness. For the Spirit of Love can come upon us but we are not Love. We can be loving but we are not Love. Since God is Love, Love is of God.

WHOEVER DOES NOT LOVE,

DOES NOT KNOW GOD,

FOR GOD IS LOVE.

John. 4: 8

WHOEVER LIVES IN LOVE

LIVES IN GOD

AND GOD IN THEM.

John 4: 16

[I doubt that being born of the Spirit is a one-time event. We must continually be reborn of the Spirit of Love. We are not by nature other-loving. We are ego-loving by nature. God is Pure Otherness.]

Day 262

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

UNLESS YOU EAT THE FLESH

AND DRINK THE BLOOD

OF THE SON OF MAN

YOU HAVE NO *LIFE* IN YOURSELF.

John 6: 53

Communion suggests that we are invited to share in the sacrificial life of Christ. Our bodies are also to be broken and our blood poured out for one another. For the greater the love we can experience, the greater the life we can rejoice in.

SINCE GOD SO LOVED US,

WE ALSO OUGHT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD,

BUT IF WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER,

GOD LIVES IN US AND

GOD'S LOVE IS MADE COMPLETE IN US.

1 John 4: 11-13

[Perhaps communion also means that we too acknowledge that we are equally responsible for rejecting and crucifying the Christ. Ego-centredness is not without significance. God gives us this life that we might live life to the full. Yet, I doubt that we can ever realize on our own that a full life is a life of love, unless and until we experience and/or acknowledge God's Love for us and God's Love in us. A life of other-centredness is an emotional, spiritual, intellectual and physical decision to live life other than selfishly. An other-centred life is a long, long time in the making. After thousands of years, we are still ignorant, ego-striving babes.]

Day 263

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

IT IS NOT *MOSES* WHO HAS GIVEN YOU

THE BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN

BUT IT IS *MY FATHER*

WHO HAS GIVEN YOU

THE TRUE BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN.

John 6: 32

When we ask God for or acknowledge our daily bread, let us remember that God also gives us bread out of heaven. God knows that we cannot truly live well on earthly food.

GOD HUMBLed YOU BY LETTING YOU HUNGER,

THEN BY FEEDING YOU WITH MANNA,

WITH WHICH NEITHER YOU

NOR YOUR ANCESTORS

WERE ACQUAINTED,

IN ORDER TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND

THAT ONE DOES NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE,
BUT BY EVERY WORD
THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LORD.

Deuteronomy 8: 3

[God is continually feeding us radically new things in order that we might have a more abundant life. These new things may appear to come to us from a human source but they actually come to us from God—though some through human mediation. Unless or until we acknowledge the Divine source, I doubt that we can appreciate their true and full value. God makes all things new and new things feed a God given craving: to love other-centredness.]

Day 264

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY UNTO YOU

WE SPEAK OF WHAT WE *KNOW* AND

TESTIFY OF WHAT WE HAVE SEEN AND

YOU DO *NOT* ACCEPT OUR TESTIMONY.

John 3: 11

Selfless and enduring Truth is its own justification. God knows that we need criteria even for Divine Wisdom.

THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE,

BUT PERFECT LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR,

BECAUSE FEAR INVOLVES PUNISHMENT.

BUT WHOEVER FEARS

HAS NOT BEEN MADE PERFECT IN LOVE.

1 John 4: 18

I doubt that there is any fear in other-centredness. If we fear that we might not succeed or do our best, our fear stems from an ego-centred fear of guilt. I doubt that there is any fear in other-centredness.

THY KINGDOM COME,

THY WILL BE DONE

ON EARTH

AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

Matthew 6: 10

[God's Pure Otherness can take away all our fears.]

Day 265

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER,

YOU USED TO GIRD YOURSELF

AND WALK WHEREVER YOU WISHED,

BUT WHEN YOU GROW *OLD*,

YOU WILL STRETCH OUT YOUR HANDS

AND SOMEONE ELSE WILL GIRD YOU AND

BRING YOU WHERE YOU DO NOT WISH TO GO.

John 21: 18

Why would Jesus take the trouble to tell us earnestly what is obvious? Perhaps the young don't believe it or are unconcerned. Perhaps the young need to realize that they are not as free to do as they wish and the elderly will not become as helpless as they might fear.

TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS

THAT WE MAY GAIN A HEART OF WISDOM.

Psalm 90: 112

[What is the wisdom in knowing that we grow old and will resent it? We have limited time in which to be ego-centred and other-centred. God does not have limited time and God is permanently Pure Other-ness throughout time. Realizing that we follow a living Other-centred-ness is far more meaningful and valuable than any ego-centredness.

I doubt that we can grasp much of the other-centred life.]

Day 266

FROM NOW ON I AM TELLING YOU

BEFORE IT COMES TO *PASS*

SO THAT WHEN IT DOES OCCUR,

YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT I AM EMMANUEL.

John 13: 19

Prediction and prophesy may be incredibly great gifts of the Loving Spirit.

PURSUE LOVE

AND DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS,

BUT ESPECIALLY THAT YOU MAY PROPHECY.

1 Corinthians 14: 1

Prophecy is to reinforce belief in God, not pride in one's ego. God shares with us what will happen according to God's Will in the name of Love. Only Love's acts are lasting.

I AM THE VINE,

YOU ARE THE BRANCHES.

WHOEVER ABIDES IN ME,

AND I IN THEM,

BEARS MUCH FRUIT,

FOR WITHOUT ME,

YOU CAN DO NOTHING.

John 15: 5

[I doubt that prayer is much more than acknowledgement and gratitude.]

Day 267

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

IF YOU ASK THE CREATOR

FOR *ANYTHING* IN MY NAME,

THE CREATOR WILL GIVE IT TO YOU.

John 14: 14

God is already granting you whatever you ask for in the name of Love. God's Will is Love and Love is already transpiring.

[I doubt that asking is actually anything but an acknowledgement.]

WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS

WORK TOGETHER

FOR GOOD TO THOSE

WHO LOVE GOD,

TO THOSE WHO ARE

THE CALLED ACCORDING

TO GOD'S PURPOSE.

Roman 8: 28

Each is called according to a different purpose; yet, the call is Love. What do you love, what all do you value and value most?

THERE ARE MANY WHO SAY:

WHO WILL SHOW US ANY GOOD?

LORD, LIFT UP THE LIGHT

OF YOUR COUNTENANCE

UPON US.

Psalm 4: 6

No one is Good, but One, that is God.

Mark 10: 18

Day 268

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

WHOEVER DOES NOT ENTER THE DOOR

INTO THE FOLD OF THE SHEEP

BUT COMES IN BY SOME OTHER WAY,

HE IS A THIEF AND A *ROBBER*.

John 10: 1

We owe our spiritual allegiance to no one and nothing other than the Love of God.

IN THIS THE LOVE OF GOD

WAS MANIFEST TOWARDS US,

THAT GOD HAS SENT

HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON

INTO THE WORLD,

THAT WE MIGHT LIVE THROUGH HIM.

¹ John 4: 9

What thief or robber exhibits love towards victims? If Love is the highest Good, why would we follow and seek to serve anything else?

[Until we acknowledge the Love of God, I doubt that we will ever realize that our hearts have been stolen.]

BELOVED, LET US
LOVE ONE ANOTHER,
FOR LOVE IS OF GOD,
AND EVERYONE WHO LOVES
IS BORN OF GOD
AND KNOWS GOD.

1 John 4: 7

Day 269

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

EVERYONE WHO COMMITS *SIN*

IS A *SLAVE TO SIN*.

John 8: 34

Everyone has sinned and will sin. Everyone is a slave to ego-centredness. Only God can lead us out of an ego-centredness existence and into a life of other-centredness. Only God is Pure Otherness.

IF WE CLAIM TO BE WITHOUT SIN,

WE DECEIVE OURSELVES

AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN US.

1 John 1: 8

[We are slaves to ego-centredness and I doubt that we even know it until we have been shown an alternative. Even then, we are unlikely to want to give up our slavery.]

IT IS FOR FREEDOM

THAT CHRIST HAS SET US FREE.

STAND FIRM, THEN,
AND DO NOT LET YOURSELVES
BE BURDENED AGAIN
BY THE YOKE OF SLAVERY.

Galatians 5: 1

It takes time to realize that life in the spirit far outweighs mere existence in the flesh.

BUT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE,
FOREBEARANCE, KINDNESS,
GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS,
GENTLENESS AND SELF-CONTROL.

Galatians 5: 22-23

Day 270

TRULY, TRULY

***TRULY, TRULY* I SAY TO YOU**

THAT ONE OF YOU WILL BETRAY ME.

John 13: 21

Christ might well say anyone, each one and everyone of you will betray me. All of the disciples fell away, we are certainly no better. Ego-preservation is a powerful motivation. Only the Love of God can overcome ego-centred selfishness.

DO YOU KNOW

WHAT I HAVE DONE?

John 13: 12

Surely Christ says to us go and do likewise. Not that we are able on our own to do anything of lasting value, but Christ can and will work in us and through us for others.

FOR THE SPIRIT

GOD GAVE US

DOES NOT MAKE US TIMID,

BUT GIVES US POWER,

LOVE AND SELF-DISCIPLINE.

2 Timothy 1: 7

[I doubt that other-centredness can be realized in any other way.]

Day 271

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS

INTO THE EARTH AND DIES,

IT WILL REMAIN ALONE,

BUT IF IT DIES, IT BEARS MUCH FRUIT

John 12: 24.

To be fruitful, one's ego must die. Dying to self enables one to grow and mature relationally since one falls into other-centredness. God is Pure Otherness and God ensures that other-centredness abounds.

WHERE CAN I GO

FROM YOUR SPIRIT?

OR WHERE CAN I FLEE

FROM YOUR PRESENCE?

Psalm 139: 7

We have much to learn from our indigenous sisters and brothers.

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S
AND THE FULNESS THEREOF,
THE WORLD,
AND THEY THAT DWELL THEREIN.

Psalm 24: 1

[I doubt that we see nearly enough, let alone everything, in the context of Love.]

Day 272

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

AN HOUR IS COMING AND NOW IS,

WHEN THE DEAD WILL HEAR THE *VOICE* OF

THE SON OF GOD

AND THOSE WHO HEAR WILL LIVE.

John 5: 25

The second coming is our rebirth into other-centredness. The Loving Spirit issues us into a fuller life: a life of greater love, greater peace, greater truth and greater faith.

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

EXCEPT A PERSON BE BORN

OF WATER AND OF THE SPIRIT

THAT PERSON CANNOT ENTER

INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

John 3: 5

Greater Love is being made visible in the world. However, people

prefer ego-centredness to other-centredness because of their egoistic greed and fear. I doubt that selfishness wants its works exposed.

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE BEFORE ALL
THAT EVERYONE MAY SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS
AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER
WHO IS IN HEAVEN.

Matthew 5: 16

[The works of other-centredness glorify the God of Love.]

Day 273

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME,

THE *WORKS* THAT I DO,

THEY *WILL* DO ALSO

AND GREATER *WORKS* THAN THESE

THEY *WILL* DO

BECAUSE I GO TO THE FATHER.

John 14: 12

How miraculous it would seem to our recent ancestors, the things that we now use and the ways that we now communicate. Even so, no doubt, these things will be far surpassed in a short time. Yet, our wisdom and prosperity are as nothing, nothing at all, compared to the Love and Peace and Truth and Will of God.

KING SOLOMON SURPASSED

ALL THE KINGS OF THE EARTH

IN RICHES AND WISDOM.

1 Kings 10: 23

Yet, Solomon could say that everything and every act is meaningless, pointless egoism. Whether we enjoy or suffer life, we live and die and are remembered no more.

PRAISE GOD FOR MIGHTY ACTS;

PRAISE GOD FOR SURPASSING GREATNESS.

Psalm 150: 2

[I doubt that our lives are lost with God. Why would God feed us and heal us and teach us and befriend us if we did not matter to God and if we did not matter to one another? Yet, the meaning and the mattering belong to God and belong with God.]

Day 274

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO YOU

WHOEVER RECEIVES

WHOMEVER (X) I SEND, RECEIVES ME

AND WHOEVER RECEIVES ME

RECEIVES GOD WHO SENT ME.

John 13: 20

God gives us life. Life's experience is maintained by God. God ensures that Divine Will gets done. Don't assume that anything rests with us. Our routine duties, our routine works, our routine thoughts and our routine play are for our benefit, not God's.

FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS,
NOR ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, DECLARES THE LORD,
FOR AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH,
SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS
AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS.

Isaiah 55: 8

Other-centred experience is a much, much richer experience than ego-centred experience. I doubt that one experience can be mistaken for the other. Yet, too often we deliberately blur the difference.

YET YOU SAY,

THE WAY OF THE LORD IS NOT RIGHT.

HEAR NOW, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL

IS MY WAY NOT RIGHT?

IS IT NOT YOUR WAYS THAT ARE NOT RIGHT?

I HAVE DEALT WITH YOU FOR MY NAMES SAKE,

NOT ACCORDING TO YOUR EVIL WAYS.

Ezekiel 18: 25

Day 275

TRULY, TRULY

TRULY, TRULY I SAY TO *YOU*

***YOU* SEEK ME**

NOT BECAUSE *YOU* SAW SIGNS

BUT BECAUSE *YOU* ATE

THE LOAVES AND WERE FILLED.

John 6: 26

We can't believe our own eyes. We cannot rely on our own experiences. However, we know when we are fulfilled: creaturely and possibly, spiritually.

HAVE I NOT COMMANDED YOU?

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS!

DO NOT TREMBLE OR BE DISMAYED,

FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD

IS WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.

Joshua 1: 9

I doubt that God would tell us information if God didn't want

us to hear. Why would God show us evidence if God didn't want us to see? Why would God lift us out of ego-centredness if God didn't want us to experience other-centredness?

SO WE, WHO ARE MANY,
ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST,
AND INDIVIDUALLY
MEMBERS OF ONE ANOTHER.

Roman 12: 5

Day 276

DID I NOT SAY TO YOU THAT IF YOU BELIEVE,

YOU WILL SEE THE GLORY OF GOD?

John 11: 40

Christ continually speaks to us saying truthfully things that I doubt that we can even begin to imagine. Nevertheless, we can acknowledge the unimaginable. God's Will will be done.

LAZARUS, COME FORTH.

John 11: 43

[We are all dead in ego-centredness until God calls us forth and sets us free as other-centred.]

Days of living LOVE

Day 277

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE AFRAID

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE ALIVE

BE NOT AMAZED

BE ALERT

ACKNOWLEDGE AND ASK ME

DO NOT BE AFRAID

I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST.*

I CAME

THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE,

AND HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY.

THERE IS NO NEED

TO BE AMAZED.

BE ON THE ALERT

FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW

THE DAY NOR THE HOUR...

[God permits parasitic and misguided ego-centredness for a time. I doubt that most of us associate evil with ourselves often enough. God is capable of creating and recreating any and all good. Whatever is asked for in the name of Love is already being granted.]

- These statements are all direct quotes from Scripture. It is so easy now too identify quotes using the internet. I would like to challenge the reader to find any of these quotes that the reader feels concerned about.

Day 278

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BLASPHEME OR BETRAY

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE BAPTIZED

BE BLESSED

BE BURDENED

BELIEVE AND BEAR MY FRUIT

BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE SPIRIT

WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN

[God calls us to otherness. It is unforgivable to try to use loving kindness for selfish purposes. I doubt that attempts to manipulated or mocked Love can go unpunished.]

BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH

BAPTISM INTO DEATH

IN ORDER THAT...

WE TOO MAY LIVE A NEW LIFE.

[We may be enabled from time to time to experience a new life of other-centredness.]

GOD BLESSED THEM.

[God blesses the whole of creation.]

MY YOKE IS EASY

AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT.

[The way forward is a shared purpose. I doubt that anyone but God even knows the direction.]

DO YOU LOVE ME?

Love others.

Day 279

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE CRUELLY COVETOUS

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE COMPASSIONATE

BE COMFORTED

BE CLEANSED

COME AND CONFESS TO ME

TRULY I TELL YOU

UNLESS YOU CHANGE AND

BECOME LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN,

YOU WILL NEVER ENTER

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

[I doubt that many of us think of a second childhood. Nevertheless, we all need to be reborn as children of God into the kingdom of other-centredness. Some experience moments of another childlike state during their lifetime. Many will have to wait until death to realize that they too are children of God.]

Day 280

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE DECEITFUL

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE DRAWN

BE DELIVERED

BE DIRECTED

DWELL IN ME AND DECLARE YOUR DEVOTION

[I would if I could. God can and God will.]

KNOW THEREFORE

THAT THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GOD;

GOD IS FAITHFUL,

KEEPING THE COVENANT OF LOVE.

[God is our other-centred love. We are drawn by love, delivered by love, directed by love.]

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

DAY BY DAY

AS LONG AS THERE IS STILL TIME

SO THAT NONE OF YOU

MAY BE HARDENED

BY THE DECEIT OF SIN.

[I doubt that we can avoid ego-centredness, but God can enable us not to be hardened by our self-centredness. We need to be delivered and we can continually be delivered from our selfishness.]

Day 281

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE EVIL

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE ENTITLED

BE EQUAL

BE ENCOURAGED

ENDURE WITH ME ETERNALLY

FOR I DO NOT DO THE GOOD

I WANT TO DO,

BUT THE EVIL

I DO NOT WANT TO DO –

THIS I KEEP ON DOING.

[I doubt that ego-centredness has to reign in our lives. Through law, God makes us aware of a difference between ego-centredness and other-centredness. We are ego-centred creatures who have been made aware of a possibility for other-centredness.

YOU HAVE BEEN SET FREE

FROM SIN

AND HAVE BECOME SLAVES

TO RIGHTEOUSNESS.

[The law makes us aware of ego-centredness and other-centredness. However, Love makes us realize that a life of other-centredness is a better, fuller, richer life than an ego-centred existence. Ego-centredness results in meaningless death, oblivion. Other-centredness is eternal.

It is God who gives us ultimate meaning and purpose.]

Day 282

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE FAITHLESS

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE FULFILLED

BE FEARFUL

BE FORGIVEN

FREELY FOLLOW ME

SALVATION IS FOUND

IN NO ONE ELSE.

[Why do we challenge what God has already decided? I doubt that our challenge could make the slightest difference. We need to challenge our own understanding. The more loving we imagine God to be, the more Loving God actually is.]

FOR MY THOUGHTS

ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS

NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS

MY WAYS.

[God's works exceed our expectations and we are amazed. Love is the

Absolute in thought, word, and deed, in Work, Word, and Will.]

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S
AND THE FULNESS THEREOF
THE WORLD AND THEY
THAT DWELL THEREIN.

[Evil is parasitic upon the good, the true and the loving. Goodness,
Truth and Love is Infinite Otherness.]

Day 283

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE GODLESS AND GREEDY

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE GLAD

BE GENEROUS

BE GUIDED

GLORIFY AND GROW IN ME.

[Grow in Love to the glory of God. Experience the gladness of being guided in generosity. Having a self that can be other-centred is most meaningful. God overrules ego-centredness.]

CHRIST IS ALL

AND IS IN ALL.

CLOTHE YOURSELVES

WITH COMPASSION, KINDNESS,

HUMILITY, GENTLENESS

AND PATIENCE...

FORGIVE AS THE LORD

FORGIVES YOU
AND OVER ALL THESE VIRTUES
PUT ON LOVE,
WHICH BINDS
ALL TOGETHER
IN PERFECT UNITY.

[I doubt that we realize what it means to be clothed with the Holy Spirit. God requires people to choose to accept intimate help and enabling.]

Day 284

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE HATEFUL AND HURTFUL

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE HEALED AND BE HOPEFUL

BE HUMBLE AND BE HUMANE

HEAR AND HUNGER FOR MY WORD.

[We hunger for what makes sense to us. I doubt that we hunger for what is meaningful to God. Yet, other-centredness makes far more sense than ego-centredness ever can.]

WHAT THEY WERE NOT TOLD,

THEY WILL SEE,

AND WHAT THEY HAVE NOT HEARD

THEY WILL UNDERSTAND.

[Yet, many of those who have been told and many of those who have seen, suffer a different fate.]

THE SEED THAT FELL

AMONG THE THORNS

STANDS FOR THOSE WHO HEAR,

BUT AS THEY GO ON THEIR WAY,

THEY ARE CHOKED

BY LIFE'S WORRIES, RICHES

AND PLEASURES

AND THEY DO NOT MATURE.

[I doubt that many of us want to mature. Being ego-centred is good enough ... until it isn't.]

Day 285

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE INSINCERE

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE INDEPENDENT

BE INSPIRED

BE INSTRUCTED

IDENTIFY WITH ME.

[The world of human interpretation is by our nature egocentric. We each have a personal perspective and a personal understanding. Yet, we each are in this world but no longer of this world because Christ has overcome our world and overrules our ego-interpretations.]

I HAVE TOLD YOU THESE THINGS,

SO THAT IN ME

YOU MAY HAVE PEACE.

IN THIS WORLD

YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE

BUT TAKE HEART!

I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.

[I doubt that other-centredness makes any sense at all to the ego-centred.]

THE WORLD CANNOT ACCEPT
THE LOVING SPIRIT
OF TRUTH AND PEACE,
BECAUSE IT NEITHER SEES
NOR KNOWS THE SPIRIT.
BUT YOU KNOW THE SPIRIT
FOR THE SPIRIT LIVES WITH YOU
AND WILL BE IN YOU.

DO NOT BE JUDGMENTAL

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE JOYFUL

BE JUDGED

BE JUST

JOIN WITH ME

[God has given us laws and commandments against ego-centredness. These laws we bend and bend until they break our egos.]

I WOULD NOT HAVE KNOWN
WHAT SIN WAS
HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE LAW.

[God has also given us laws and commandments for other-centredness. These are laws by which the Spirit draws us until our ego-centredness breaks open and we live, really and truly.]

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE,
FORBEARANCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS,
FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS AND SELF-CONTROL.
AGAINST SUCH THINGS THERE IS NO LAW.

THROUGH CHRIST JESUS
THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT
WHO GIVES LIFE
HAS SET YOU FREE
FROM THE LAW OF SIN AND DEATH.

[I doubt that human laws apply. They cannot make us other-centred,
only the Holy Spirit can.]

Day 287

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE KILLERS

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE KIND

BE KINDLED

BE KEYED ON

KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS.

[Even if we could recognize God's commandments for what they are, I very much doubt that we could keep them. Why then would God command us to do the impossible? What is impossible for us is extremely easy for God to do in and through us.]

FOR MY YOKE IS EASY

AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT.

[To be at peace. To be as kind as we can and are enabled to be. Nothing could be easier.]

NO ONE CAN SERVE

TWO MASTERS.

[God allows us an ego-centred existence. Yet God intends that we live an other-centred life through love. We are to love life and to love life

equally in others. However, to try to love an inanimate thing and a fictitious thing as much or more than we love life is wrong.]

WHOEVER LOVES OTHERS

HAS FULFILLED THE LAW.

[Do not try to kill love.]

YOUR LOVE IS BETTER THAN LIFE.

Day 288

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE LAWLESS OR LUSTFUL

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE LOVED

BE LOVING

BE LOVE ABIDING

LET ME LOVE YOU AND LEARN FROM ME.

[There are laws governing ego-centredness that lead to enlightened self-interest. Everyone should and could be treated equally if we were born and raised in equality. However, there is no natural equality. There are also laws governing other-centredness that come from Love.

Everyone is treated equally as a creature and child of God.]

KNOW THAT THE LORD IS GOD,

IT IS GOD WHO MADE US

AND WE ARE GOD'S,

WE ARE GOD'S PEOPLE.

[God can and does enable us to know about and even to see the world from a divine perspective: other-centredly. I doubt that we are more than observers and followers in other-centredness. God wills and rules

the other-centred world... as well.]

TRULY I TELL YOU,
UNLESS YOU CHANGE
AND BECOME LIKE LITTLE CHILDREN
YOU WILL NEVER ENTER
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

THE KINGDOM OF THE WORLD
IS THE KINGDOM OF OUR GOD,
AND GOD'S MESSIAH
WILL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER.

Day 289

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE MISLED OR MISLEADING

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE MERCIFUL

BE MOVED

BE MINDFUL

MEET WITH ME.

[Do not be misled by ego-centredness. Do not be misleading about other-centredness. Ego-centredness is quite natural, but ego-centredness cannot involve other-centredness. Other-centredness is never dependent upon oneself. Without Love, we are powerless to be other-centred.]

WITH HUMANITY

THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE,

BUT WITH GOD

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

[Other-centredness is a physical gift of sight and sound, an intellectual gift of thought and imagination, a spiritual gift of value and necessity, and an emotional gift of grace and mercy.
God is Pure Otherness.]

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE

FOR ONE WHO BELIEVES.

[I doubt that we know how to believe. God is not mocked nor manipulated. God is way out in front of every need as well as with us in every trial of Love.]

I DO BELIEVE;

HELP ME OVERCOME

ME UNBELIEF.

Day 290

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE NEGLECTFUL

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE NEEDY

BE NEXT

BE KNOWLEDGEABLE

KNOW ME

BE STILL AND KNOW

THAT I AM GOD...

THE LORD KNOWS

ALL HUMAN PLANS;

GOD KNOWS

THAT THEY ARE FUTILE.

[Yet again we find ourselves in an impossible situation. This time the entire world is subject to the same viral threat. Anyone of us could be the next to die.]

YET GOD SAVED THEM
FOR CHRIST'S NAME SAKE
TO MAKE KNOWN
GOD'S MIGHTY POWER.

[I doubt that many will see this threat as the outcome of ego-centredness. Nevertheless, much of it has been spread by ego-centred, ignorant people. If God did not intervene, we would all perish from such ego-centred behaviour. Once again God may show us that other-centredness is the only way to survive and the only way to grow in Love.]

Day 291

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT OFFEND OR BE OFFENDED

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE OTHERWARD

BE HONEST

BE OBSERVANT

OBEY ME.

IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS,

GOD IS FAITHFUL AND JUST

AND WILL FORGIVE US OUR SINS

AND PURIFY US

FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

[I doubt that one can be ego-centred and other-centred at the same time. During the times that we are enabled to be other-centred, we are completely freed from ego-centredness by God Who is Pure Otherness.]

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM,

AND KNOWLEDGE
OF THE HOLY ONE
IS UNDERSTANDING.

[Only God can turn our ego-centred activity into lasting other-centred events. God can do this with or without our consent. Ego-centredness must die that other-centredness may live. Consensual other-centredness is love. Consensual Other-centredness is Divine Love.]

Day 292

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT PERVERT OR BE PERVERTED

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE PASSIONATE AND PERFECT IN LOVE

BE PEACEFUL AND PATIENT

BE PRUDENT AND PREPARED

PROCLAIM MY WAY, WORD, WORK AND WILL.

BE ON YOUR GUARD

AGAINST THE YEAST

OF THE PHARISEES

WHICH IS HYPOCRISY...

YOU NEGLECT JUSTICE

AND THE LOVE OF GOD.

[Justice, mercy and faithfulness cannot come from ego-centredness. Even when we know of such values, we will not be able to act upon them willingly. The gift of the law shows us what we should be doing but only the gift of love can teach us how we should go about behaving.]

HATRED STIRS UP CONFLICT

BUT LOVE COVERS OVER

ALL WRONGS.

[The ego-centred are the noisy gongs and the clanging cymbals. I doubt that ego-centredness leads eventually to anything but the loss of freedom, joy, goodness and peace. Other-centredness can set us free to live in gratitude and trust.]

Day 293

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE QUIZZICAL

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE QUICKENED

BE QUIETED

BE QUESTIONED

QUESTION ME.

[We question from ego-centredness but other-centredness questions us.]

I WILL ASK YOU ONE QUESTION.

ANSWER ME AND

I WILL TELL YOU

BY WHAT AUTHORITY

I AM DOING THESE THINGS.

[Ego-centredness leads to paradoxes and endless confusion. Other-centredness awakens us to new possibilities.]

TO THE WEAK, I BECAME WEAK,

TO WIN THE WEAK,

I WOULD BECOME

ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE

SO THAT BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS

I MIGHT WIN SOME TO GOD.

[I doubt that one has anything other than good and bad choices after one has experienced other-centredness. Ego-centredness is ultimately utterly depressing and destructive.]

Day 294

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE A RESISTER OR ROBBER OF GOOD

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE RELATED AND RESPONSIVE

BE REWARDED AND RENEWED

REPENT AND BE MADE RIGHTEOUS.

[What is a human being to question about anything that God does or allows? God loves us far more than we love ourselves.]

WHAT ARE HUMAN BEINGS

THAT YOU

ARE MINDFUL OF THEM?

MERE MORTALS

THAT YOU

CARE FOR THEM?

[What is love if not other-centredness?]

WE LOVE
BECAUSE GOD
FIRST LOVED US.

[I doubt that we would truly care for one another if God did not care for each and everyone of us first and last.]

Day 295

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE SINFUL OR SELF-INDULGENT

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE SAVED

BE SELFLESS

BE SANCTIFIED

SEEK AND SERVE ME; SING AND SUFFER.

GOD MADE CHRIST JESUS

WHO HAD NO SIN

TO BE SIN FOR US,

SO THAT IN GOD

WE MIGHT BECOME

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS

OF GOD

[I doubt that other-centredness is anything that we earn or achieve. Other-centredness is a gift of God, like life itself. Yet, other-centredness is a second life, so unlike the first.]

FOR IT IS BY GRACE
YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED,
THROUGH FAITH—
AND THIS IS NOT
FROM YOURSELVES,
IT IS A GIFT OF GOD...
EACH OF YOU SHOULD USE
WHATEVER GIFT YOU HAVE RECEIVED
TO SERVE OTHERS, AS FAITHFUL STEWARDS
OF GOD'S GRACE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS.

[Other-centredness admits of personal gifts of which the ego-centred
have no knowledge.]

Day 296

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE TEMPTED

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE TENDER-HEARTED

BE TRUTHFUL

BE TAUGHT

TRUST ME AND TELL OTHERS.

[Do not be tempted to put yourself first. However, even equality is not enough. Other-centredness is loving selflessly]

GOD TAKES UP OUR PAIN

AND BEARS OUR SUFFERING.

[We have much to learn and much to experience and much to share. We are free to reject the truths of other-centredness but that does not alter reality. God and God alone has been here long before, is here now and will be here throughout every tomorrow.]

GOD HAS MADE EVERYTHING

BEAUTIFUL IN ITS TIME.

GOD HAS ALSO SET

ETERNITY

IN THE HUMAN HEART.

[God gives without our asking. I doubt that we would have a clue what to ask for anyway.]

YOUR FATHER KNOWS
WHAT YOU NEED
BEFORE YOU ASK...
SEEK FIRST GOD'S KINGDOM
AND GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
AND ALL THESE THINGS
WILL BE GIVEN YOU AS WELL.

Day 297

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE UNJUST

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE UNIFIED

BE UNIQUE

BE UNWORTHY

UNDERSTAND ME

DO YOU STILL NOT SEE

OR UNDERSTAND?

ARE YOUR HEARTS HARDENED?

[God and others are to be the focus of our attention, not our pride. I doubt that we are or have anything worthy of pride. We are uniquely God's and united with God by God. Nothing like Love do we have or could achieve on our own.]

GET BEHIND ME, SATAN!

YOU DO NOT HAVE IN MIND

THE CONCERNS OF GOD

BUT MERELY HUMAN CONCERNS.

[How will we learn the ways of God if we insist on trying to see them in terms of human pride. If we learn that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus follows Divine ways, not human ways.]

JESUS THEN BEGAN

TO TEACH THEM

A PREDICTION.

Day 298

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE VICIOUS OR VENGEFUL

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE VIRTUOUS

BE VISIONARY

BE VICTORIOUS

VALUE ME ABOVE ALL ELSE.

[If we died a thousand deaths each day, we would still be ego-centred creatures until we die a divinely human selfless death. How do we die a selfless death? Our egos need to die.]

THY KINGDOM COME

THY WILL BE DONE

ON EARTH AS

IT IS IN HEAVEN.

[God gives us a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven on earth. Yet, I doubt that most of us understand the experience. Other-centredness is beyond our grasp. Other-centredness is beyond our pride.]

I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH

WITH A PARABLE...

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE...

[The Kingdom of Heaven is like a new and much fuller way of living:
other-centredly.]

Day 299

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT WALK IN DARKENSS

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE WARNED

BE WILLING

BE WISE AND WATCHFUL

WAIT AND WORSHIP ME.

[I doubt that we need to walk about blindly. God teaches us and shows us and enables us with the essentials for life: to Love God and to love our neighbours as we are loved.]

JESUS, THE PIONEER

AND PERFECTER OF FAITH.

[Importantly, God does not allow us to turn other-centredness to our own advantage. Other-centredness remains with the other. Even self love can be love of another self.]

LOVE DOES NOT DISHONOUR OTHERS,

LOVE IS NOT SELF-SEEKING,

LOVE IS NOT EASILY ANGERED,

LOVE KEEPS NO RECORDS OF WRONGS.

THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS:

LET NOT THE WISE BOAST OF THEIR WISDOM
OR THE STRONG BOAST OF THEIR STRENGTH
OR THE RICH BOAST OF THEIR RICHES, BUT
LET THE ONE WHO BOASTS BOAST ABOUT THIS:
THAT THEY HAVE UNDERSTANDING ABOUT ME,
THAT I AM THE LORD, WHO EXERCISES
KINDNESS, JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS
ON EARTH, FOR IN THESE I DELIGHT.

Day 300

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT EXPLOIT OR BE EXPLOITED

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE EXPECTANT

BE EXPERIENCED

BE EXEMPLARY

EXALT ME.

[We all have God given and therefore sacred talents. Yet, we are all ego-centred. In our ego-centredness, we judge the ego-centredness of others. Our own ego-centredness is judged in the same way. Many individuals come to realize that an enlightened use of sacred talents is better than an unenlightened use of those gifts. However, even enlightened self-interest is in no way comparable to other-centredness.]

DO NOT GIVE DOGS

WHAT IS SACRED,

DO NOT THROW

YOUR PEARLS TO PIGS.

[We can love dogs and pigs dearly. We are after all nothing but evolving creatures ourselves. However, self-love is at best enlightened self-love. Other-centredness is beyond the grasp of even the most enlight-

ened ego-centred. Only God can turn self-interest into otherness. God is Pure Otherness.]

IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD –

NOT WORKS,

SO THAT NO ONE CAN BOAST.

[I think that many boast of practicing their sacred talents through enlightened self-interest but I doubt that anyone can boast of other-centredness. Let one who boasts, boast of the Lord.]

Day 301

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT YAW

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE YOKED

BE YOUTHFUL

BE LIKE YEAST

YEARN FOR ME AND YIELD TO ME.

FOR CHRIST'S LOVE COMPELS US,

BECAUSE WE ARE CONVINCED

THAT ONE DIED FOR ALL

AND THEREFORE ALL DIED.

[One might think that it is a fairly straight forward thing to distinguish self-interest, enlightened self-interest and other-centredness. I doubt that it is as simple as we might like to think it is. We all have great difficulty giving up self-interest, for even enlightened self-interest is still self-interest. Why would we not at least try to turn otherness into self-interest?]

AND CHRIST DIED FOR ALL,

THAT THOSE WHO LIVE

SHOULD NO LONGER LIVE

FOR THEMSELVES

BUT FOR CHRIST

WHO DIED FOR THEM

AND WAS RAISED AGAIN.

[Other-centredness is a loving compulsion from God lest anyone should boast. Let one who boasts, boast of the Lord.]

Day 302

SPIRITUAL LIVING

DO NOT BE ZEALOTS

BECAUSE I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

BE ZEALOUS

BE ZEROED

BE ZIONISTS

ZYXT BY ME.

[Zealots believe only in their own cause. To be zealous about God's will is to love God and others.]

WHILE WE WERE GOD'S ENEMIES

GOD MADE FRIENDS WITH US

THROUGH THE DEATH OF GOD'S OWN SON.

HOW MUCH MORE

HAVING BEEN RECONCILED

WILL WE BE SAVED BY HIS RESURRECTION.

[To be where God would have us be and to do what God would have us do..., I doubt that we could ask for more.]

WHETHER WE LIVE OR DIE

WE BELONG TO THE LORD.

[God gives us life which we live in ego-centredness. Then God repeatedly gives us a new life of other-centredness. God gives life and makes possible our centredness.]

Alpha Days

[In the beginning God created otherness.]

AND GOD SAW EVERYTHING

THAT GOD HAS MADE AND

BEHOLD IT WAS VERY GOOD.

Genesis 1: 31

[Otherness is infinitely beyond our capability to understand, except as confrontation. In fact, even our external reality is that which reveals itself in yet unexpected ways through confrontation. Our internal reality is experienced differently. One knows oneself as an ego-centred fiction. Yet, we also have an inner agency apart from any direct experience. It is an individual's own other-centredness.

Beginning with Abraham, God has led humanity to believe that God alone can lead us beyond ego-centredness towards other-centredness: Divine, external and internal.]

IS ANYTHING TOO HARD

FOR THE LORD? *

Genesis 18: 14

[Jacob and Joseph had to learn and live out God's gift of other-centred ways

FEAR NOT, AM I GOD

TO JUDGE AND PUNISH YOU?

YOU INTENDED TO HARM ME
BUT GOD INTENDED IT ALL FOR GOOD
IN ORDER TO PRESERVE
NUMEROUS PEOPLE.
Genesis 50:20

[I doubt that humanity, Jews and gentiles, have yet progressed beyond the question:]

AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?
Genesis 4: 9

- Again, I would challenge the reader to find these direct quotations. See if selection can all be found in the same book of the Bible.

[Even with God's help, humans find it difficult to recognize the transition from ego-centredness to other-centredness. Without a Divine act, the transition is impossible. Moreover, the transition must be made over and over and over again. Even one who is willing in some things will find it too difficult in other things.]

PARDON YOUR SERVANT, LORD.

PLEASE SEND SOMEONE ELSE.

[There are fates far worse than death ... dying in ego-centredness being chief among them.]

I KNOW THE KING OF EGYPT

WILL NOT LET YOU GO.

[The Lord gave the Israelites ten commandments to guide them in their new land, in the ways of the Lord. However, the Israelites were unable to follow even the first of these commandments, let alone all ten. I doubt that we are any different, any better.]

DON'T BE AFRAID.

GOD HAS COME TO TEST YOU

SO THAT YOU WILL BE IN AWE OF GOD

AND WON'T SIN.

[God knows that we will all fail the test of selflessness, time and time again. So God teaches us how we might bring an offering to the Lord our God.]

SPEAK TO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL
THAT THEY TAKE AN OFFERING FOR ME.
YOU ARE TO TAKE MY OFFERING
FROM EVERYONE WHOSE HEART
MAKES WILLING.

[I doubt that we can earn or buy our way to otherness, but we can be made aware of love and we can be enabled to respond to God's prompting Love.]

[God calls on humanity to be perfect because we are made in the image of God and God is perfect.]

BE HOLY, BECAUSE I,

THE LORD YOUR GOD, AM HOLY.

[So the Israelites set about devising any number of human ways to achieve human perfection. There are now countless commandments and limitless laws and serious statutes and rigorous rules and regulations to govern good behaviour. However, human goodness inevitably falls far, far short of Divine Goodness. Moreover, only God can make anyone holy.]

I AM THE LORD

WHO MAKES THEM HOLY.

[God intends that humanity achieve a Divine perfection which is unconditional love.]

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

AS YOURSELF.

[Who then is our neighbour? We are all neighbours, one to another.]

THE FOREIGNER RESIDING AMONG YOU

MUST BE TREATED

AS YOUR NATIVE-BORN.

LOVE THEM AS YOURSELF.

[God is perfect in Otherness. God wills us to be other-centred. Yet, only God can enable us to be other-centred. For centuries, the Israelites and therefore humanity were given every opportunity to achieve a human goodness. However, humanity had no clear idea of God's true Holiness nor of humanity's call to true holiness.

I doubt that laws bring any of us anything but a sense of guilt as we all attempt to bend laws towards our own interest until we are defeated. No one was ever made whole by rules and regulations. No one was ever made holy or loving through human effort alone.

Perhaps now is the time for us all to evolve into other-centred loving creatures.]

[Is there any of the Arts or Humanities that Israelites have not supported? Is there any of the Sciences that Israelites have not excelled at? The Israelites were inspired to be perfect and they have endeavoured to achieve human perfection in every form. The Israelites, thereby, learned that they in particular and humanity in general are special to God.]

THE LORD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU;
THE LORD SMILE ON YOU AND
BE GRACIOUS TO YOU;
THE LORD LOOK UPON YOU KINDLY
AND GIVE YOU PEACE.

[However, how many Israelites shared the holiness of God's Love. The Israelites in particular and humanity in general are still learning that the Love of God works in two directions. God will care for a people but people must be willing to accept and to follow God's lead.]

AT THE COMMAND OF THE LORD,
THEY WOULD MAKE CAMP
AND THEY WOULD BREAK CAMP.

[And so God can protect a people even in a dry and barren place for many years. Yet the Israelites in particular and humanity in general have been very slow to learn that holiness far exceeds human perfection. Divine perfection involves something other than ego-centredness.

THE LORD IS SLOW TO ANGER
AND ABUNDANT IN MERCY,
FORGIVING SELF-CENTREDNESS
AND REBELLION.

YET SELF-CENTREDNESS
CANNOT GO UNPUNISHED.

[I doubt that the ego-centred can ever experience the promised land. The Kingdom isn't just a place, the Kingdom is a Way of Life. We must each learn to share the mercy, peace, truth and strength that we receive if we are to experience other-centredness. Otherwise we will be left to deal with our selfishness for a very long time.]

I AM THE LORD, AND
I WILL ALWAYS CONSIDER
ALL PEOPLE THE SAME.

[The punishment for ego-centredness is firstly ego-centredness itself.]

NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS...

[The second giving of the Commandments by God to Moses started with the most important of the Love Commandments.]

LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND

WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND

WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.

[When Jesus quotes the Love commandment, he includes “with all your mind.” The New Testament assures us that we have been given a special knowledge of God’s Love.]

KNOW THEREFORE THAT

THE LORD YOUR GOD IS GOD,

GOD IS THE FAITHFUL GOD,

KEEPING THE COVENANT OF LOVE

TO A THOUSAND GENERATIONS

OF THOSE WHO LOVE GOD

AND KEEP GOD’S COMMANDMENTS.

[Before human beings can love God as they should, they need to learn how to love emotionally, spiritually, intellectually and physically. They

do this through enlightened ego-centred interests in their own day and age. God can take these individual ego-centred human ways of love and transform them into other-centred ways of Love, especially as a total response to the Love of God.

I doubt that anything can be more fulfilling than a total response to the Love of God.]

THE ETERNAL GOD

IS YOUR DWELLING PLACE.

[The Kingdom of God is a Way of Life, a relationship with God, in Other-Centredness.]

[As the Israelites entered into their promised land, they were told over and over that God was with them and that God would help them.]

I WILL HELP YOU

[The Israelites weren't any better than their foes except that they had been given a special relationship with God. Whose side was God on?]

I AM NOT ON EITHER SIDE.
I HAVE COME AS THE COMMANDER
OF THE LORD'S ARMY.

[At the end of his life Joshua reviews many of the ways in which the Lord has helped the Israelites.]

NOW I AM ABOUT TO GO
THE WAY OF ALL THE EARTH.
YOU KNOW
WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND SOUL
THAT NOT ONE
OF ALL THE GOOD PROMISES
THE LORD GOD, YOUR GOD,
GAVE TO YOU HAS FAILED.

[Yet, Joshua was not convinced that the Israelites understood the difference between human nature and Divine Nature, human service and Divine Love.]

YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE
TO SERVE THE LORD
FOR GOD IS A HOLY GOD

AND GOD IS A JEALOUS GOD.
GOD WILL NOT FORGIVE
YOUR REBELLION AND
YOUR SINS.

[I doubt that the Israelites could distinguish between obedience and ego-centredness. God teaches us endlessly that if God is helping us then it is God's Will (in us) that endures.]

I HELPED YOU DEFEAT THEM ALL.
YOUR ENEMIES RAN FROM YOU,
BUT NOT BECAUSE YOU HAD
SWORDS AND BOWS AND ARROWS.
I MADE YOUR ENEMIES
PANIC AND RUN AWAY.

[Other-centredness is an impossible thing for human beings to conceive of and will.]

WHEN ENEMIES MADE LIFE MISERABLE,

THE LORD WOULD FEEL SORRY FOR THEM.

GOD WOULD CHOOSE A JUDGE AND

HELP THAT JUDGE RESCUE ISRAEL.

THE LORD WOULD BE KIND TO ISRAEL

AS LONG AS THAT JUDGE LIVED.

[God repeatedly had to prod the Israelites out of their ego-centredness.]

I WILL USE THOSE NATIONS

TO TEST ISRAEL AND SEE

WHETHER THEY WILL KEEP

THE WAY OF THE LORD.

[Each generation of Israelites has to relearn that their power and peace comes from God alone.]

THE LORD HAS ALREADY

GONE ON AHEAD
TO FIGHT FOR YOU.

[Nevertheless, the Israelites were unwilling and unable to recognize the source of their strength.]

IN THOSE DAYS
THERE WAS NO KING IN ISRAEL
AND EVERYONE DID
WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS RIGHT.

[I doubt that we have yet learned that it is God who works through judges and civic leaders and kings as well as priests and prophets and each individual to accomplish God's will. Nor is God mocked or manipulated into doing our will.]

[It is easy to think that we are all born into ego-centredness. It is such a common human condition. However, thankfully for us, there are a number of individuals who have been led into other-centredness. Whether through excessive kindness or vulnerability or some other insightful circumstance, these individuals realize that other-centredness is a good and fuller way of life. Ruth appears to have been such an individual.]

DO NOT URGE ME TO LEAVE YOU

OR TO TURN BACK FROM FOLLOWING YOU

FOR WHERE YOU GO, I WILL GO.

WHERE YOU LIVE, I WILL LIVE.

YOUR PEOPLE WILL BE MY PEOPLE

AND YOUR GOD WILL BE MY GOD.

[In time, many humans might come to realize that such a commitment gives greater meaning to life than our usually more natural experience of ego-centredness. However, individuals like Ruth may actually need to be taught about ego-centredness. Ego-centredness has a role in teaching us to develop individual skills and abilities. Naomi had to teach Ruth, a Moabite, how to fend for herself among the Israelites in Bethlehem.

The Lord blessed Ruth and Naomi and the whole of Israel far beyond their wildest dreams. Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David. Naomi and Ruth had a child to take care of them as they grew old. Ruth continued to experience and express an other-centred love

to an incredible degree.]

SHE LOVES YOU AND
SHE IS BETTER FOR YOU
THAN SEVEN SONS.

[I doubt that human beings would ever come to realize the true value of ego-centredness if it were not contrast from time to time with other-centredness.]

[Samuel may have been another individual gifted by God with other-centredness at a very early age.]

SPEAK, FOR YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING

[Samuel became the last of the judges to lead the Israelites and the first of the prophets to see Israel's failings as symbolized by their desire for a king. King Saul committed murder, King David committed adultery and murder, and King Solomon committed idolatry.]

IT IS NOT BY STRENGTH

THAT ONE PREVAILS.

[The two kings whom Samuel anointed were shown a better way of life. The Spirit of the Lord turned them towards other-centredness.]

GOD GAVE HIM ANOTHER HEART.

[If the anointed kings of Israel could not maintain a loving relationship with God, I doubt that priests and prophets could do any better. Nevertheless, God continued to fulfill the promise of loving, leading and protecting Israel.]

THE LORD HAS CHOSEN YOU

TO BE GOD'S PEOPLE.

[All the while, the only commandment that God continually gave the Israelites was one of love.]

DO NOT TURN AWAY FROM FOLLOWING THE LORD,

SERVE THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART.

[God continues to be the true Authority over Israel in particular and humanity is general.]

IF BOTH YOU AND

THE KING WHO REIGNS OVER YOU

FOLLOW THE LORD YOUR GOD,

IT WILL BE WELL.

[As he was about to die, King David charged his son Solomon to be other-centred; however, King David did this for an ego-centred reason.]

IF YOUR DESCENDANTS WATCH HOW THEY LIVE

AND IF THEY WALK FAITHFULLY

BEFORE ME

WITH ALL THEIR HEART AND SOUL,

YOU WILL NEVER FAIL

TO HAVE A SUCCESSOR

ON THE THRONE OF ISRAEL.

[In asking God for an understanding heart in order to make sound moral judgments for the people, Solomon showed that he loved God and walked with other-centredness.]

I WILL GIVE YOU

A WISE AND DISCERNING HEART.

[Solomon used his God given wealth and wisdom to build a temple to the Lord in Jerusalem.]

THAT GOD MAY INCLINE

OUR HEARTS TOWARDS GOD.

[However, in time, Solomon's foreign wives turned his heart towards many foreign gods.]

SINCE YOU DID WHAT YOU WANTED

AND NOT WHAT I COMMANDED YOU,

I WILL TEAR THE KINGDOM FROM YOU.

[Then life became difficult for Solomon and for his son. The Israelites split into two groups, Israel and Judah. If even the kings of the Israelites could not maintain a right relationship with God, I doubt that it can be up to humanity to achieve such a thing. Only God can fulfill what God commands.]

LET THE HEART OF THOSE

WHO SEEK THE LORD REJOICE.

[Let the heart of anyone and everyone anywhere and everywhere who have been drawn out of and lifted up out of ego-centredness rejoice and give thanks to God.]

LOOK TO THE LORD

AND GOD'S STRENGTH.

ALWAYS LOOK TO GOD.

[God alone can accomplish the act and all acts of other-centredness.]

PRAISE THE LORD,

ALL YOU FAMILIES OF NATIONS.

PRAISE THE LORD

FOR GOD'S LOVE AND STRENGTH.

[The Lord reigns among the nations.]

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD,

FOR GOD IS GOOD;

GOD'S MERCY ENDURES FOREVER.

[God alone is the source of mercy and God's mercy endures forever.

I doubt that this fact is well enough understood. We must look to the Lord at all times and in all circumstances because God and God alone is the source of any and all other-centredness. In denying or rejecting God's gift of Love, humans remain ego-centred.]

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

[Why would we need to pray to the God of Love not to lead us into temptation? Why would a Loving God even consider tempting us or testing us, knowing that we are weak and would fail the test? Surely, we pray not to be left in ego-centredness or at least not to be left too long in ego-centredness. If God were to toy with us, there would be no hope. God is Pure Otherness.

The Israelites in particular and all humanity in general need to be freed from ego-centredness again and again and again.]

THOUGH WE WERE SLAVES,

OUR GOD HAS NOT FORSAKEN US

IN OUR BONDAGE.

[Physical bondage is only one form of slavery. Emotional, intellectual and spiritual bondage are just as binding forms of ego-centredness.]

THE LORD FILLED THEM WITH JOY

BY CHANGING THE ATTITUDE

OF THE KING OF ASSYRIA.

LET... LET... LET...

LET HIM GO UP.

[God can and does transform ego-centred concerns into other-centred concerns.]

GOD IS GOOD.

GOD'S LOVE TOWARDS ISRAEL

ENDURES FOREVER.

[I doubt that there is greater joy than knowing that we have been given even a very brief release from ego-centredness. Ego-centredness is a path to destruction and death. Other-centredness at the very least offers us an alternative.]

[Nehemiah appears to have been of two minds. Either God rules in our hearts and minds or we have a responsibility to love and serve God.]

YOU FAITHFULLY KEEP YOUR PROMISES

TO EVERYONE WHO LOVES YOU

AND OBEYS YOUR COMMANDMENTS.

THEN GOD INSPIRED ME TO...

[I very much doubt that we can ever earn the Love and the Faithfulness of God. God's Love is not directed by our thoughts and actions. God Loves us long before we love God and as we respond to God's Love and even as we turn away from loving God. God is Love.

We are all egoistic creatures by nature. We cannot alter that fact.

God does not just initiate in us feelings and thoughts of Love and Peace and Truth and Strength and then leave it up to humanity to be responsible for a new life. God continues to be the only source of Otherness in us and through us to others.

God is our other-centredness. Our responsibility is to recognize and acknowledge the possibility and then the actuality that the God of Love can lead us out of our egoistic lives and into other-centred lives now and again and forever.]

[In my ignorance, I wondered why the Book of Esther is included in Scripture. Mordecai does raise an orphan, named Esther, and later Esther acts to save Mordecai's life. However, much of the book appears to be about extreme self-indulgence. It is a book that shows the Israelites to be as influenced by and as influential in wealth, power, beauty, feasts, intrigue and pride as their enemies. Esther, a queen, fasted and then risked her life to save the life of Mordecai and the Jewish people. Yet, God is not given gratitude and praise for the numerous reversals of events.

The greatest statement of other-centredness that I could find in the book is a statement of belief that the Israelites will be saved as a nation with different laws and customs regardless of what happens in any particular circumstances.]

IF YOU KEEP SILENT AT THIS TIME,

RELIEF AND DELIVERANCE

WILL COME TO THE JEWS

FROM ANOTHER PLACE.

[I doubt that anything else explains why Israel survives when all other nations fail. Yet, I also doubt that God would have us behave like our enemies. I further doubt that God would have us have any enemies.]

NAKED I CAME FROM MY MOTHER'S WOMB
AND NAKED I WILL DEPART.
THE LORD HAS GIVEN AND
THE LORD TAKES AWAY.
PRAISE THE NAME OF THE LORD.

IN GOD'S HAND IS THE LIFE
OF EVERY LIVING CREATURE AND
THE BREATH OF EVERY HUMAN BEING.

THOUGH GOD KILLS ME,
YET WILL I HOPE IN GOD.

[I doubt that Job or any human being could defend ego-centredness
before Pure Otherness.]

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES
AND THAT AT LAST HE WILL STAND UPON THE EARTH
AND AFTER MY FLESH HAS BEEN DESTROYED
IN MY BODY I WILL SEE GOD.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD,
THAT IS WISDOM AND
TO DEPART FROM EVIL
IS UNDERSTANDING.

I KNOW THAT YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS.
NOTHING CAN PUT A STOP TO YOUR PLANS....

I SPOKE ABOUT THINGS I DID NOT UNDERSTAND,
THINGS THAT WERE TOO WONDERFUL FOR ME TO KNOW.

Day 318

PSALMS

YOU ARE MY LORD;

I HAVE NO GOOD BUT IN YOU.

[Since God is our other-centredness, then God is our ultimate Good and our ultimate Peace, Truth, Strength and Love.]

GOD HAS PUT A NEW SONG

IN MY MOUTH

A SONG OF PRAISE

TO OUR GOD.

[I sing but one hymn with many variations: God is Pure Otherness and our other-centredness. I doubt that anything else could have as much meaning.]

NO ONE CAN BY ANY MEANS

REDEEM THE LIFE OF ANOTHER

OR GIVE TO GOD A RANSOM FOR THEM –

THE RANSOM FOR A LIFE IS COSTLY,

NO PAYMENT IS ENOUGH –

SO THAT THEY SHOULD LIVE FOREVER.

[Rescue us because of Your unfailing Love.]

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT

I AM GOD.

I AM PRAISED IN ALL THE NATIONS;

I AM PRAISED IN ALL THE EARTH.

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART
AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING;

IN ALL YOUR WAYS SUBMIT TO GOD

AND GOD WILL DIRECT YOUR PATH.

[We find ourselves in the fear that there is no clear way forward but we rejoice in the fact that God is the Way.]

HATRED STIRS UP CONFLICT

BUT LOVE FORGIVES ALL WRONGS.

[Conflict increases ego-centredness but Love makes possible and redirects us towards other-centredness.]

THE LORD MADE EVERYTHING

FOR GOD'S OWN PURPOSE.

[Humans develop any number of plans in their hearts but God has the first and final Word.]

EACH PERSON MAY THINK

THAT THEIR OWN WAYS ARE RIGHT

BUT THE LORD

EXAMIINES THEIR HEART.

[While we are in an ego-centred condition, I doubt that we can believe in or want God to direct our ways. Yet, I also doubt that any human wisdom or insight or advice can succeed against our Lord.]

[One can be as wealthy and as wise as King Solomon and still question whether life has any meaning. As long as a life is one of ego-indulgence, life will have very limited meaning. We humans easily become bored, ungrateful, fearful and even despairing.]

THERE IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN.

[Solomon recommends enjoying God's good gifts, working hard and appreciating companionship. Yet, even he is brought up short by the realization that life is brief.]

EVERYONE SHOULD EAT AND DRINK

AND TAKE PLEASURE FROM ONE'S LABOUR

AS GIFTS FROM GOD.

[Yet, his final advice, while true, has a somewhat hollow ring:]

FEAR GOD AND

OBEY GOD'S COMMANDMENTS.

[Solomon, like any other person, was unable to do that.]

THERE IS NO ONE ON EARTH

WHO IS RIGHTEOUS.

[I doubt that the pleasures of ego-indulgence, however enlightened, will see us through our meaningless days.]

THE LIFE GIVING SPIRIT

RETURNS TO GOD.

[The human spirit knows or feels that it returns for judgment. Let us hope that the judgment has already been suffered by God that we might experience more permanently the Love of God's Pure Otherness and Other-centredness.]

[After or during and even before significant events, the leaders of the Israelites and of the rest of humanity often expressed their feelings to God in song. In song, the human spirit can well up in response to the Divine Spirit. It is a human attempt at whole heartedness. Songs of ego-centredness are usually full of sadness and despair but songs of other-centredness yield to a joy that is inexpressible in many other ways. The arts provide the means for attempts at communicating the deepest emotions to another.]

LOVE IS AS STRONG AS DEATH.

[The Song of Solomon was his song but each of us has our own song to sing. Songs run the full gamete of emotions, the full spectrum of colour, the full range of intellect and the full span of spirituality. Songs enjoin us to others in ways of harmony that few other activities can. We are challenged to persuade and encourage one another with songs of praise and gratitude, of respect, honour and love.

I doubt that the human spirit will ever stop singing praises to God.]

I AM SHAKING THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE EARTH

[In a few short weeks, the entire world, the whole earth, went from relative prosperity and development, shockingly and staggeringly, to mask wearing, social distancing and self-isolation. It was like a Hollywood pandemic movie that no one could turn off or a bad dream that no one could wake up from. The rich held out hope for a scientific vaccine and a quick recovery, while the poor could only hope to survive the probably human engineered/transported virus.

It is all but impossible for us to understand pain and suffering as influences of Love. It has been much easier for us to interpret pain and suffering as acts of Divine judgment and punishment for and resulting from our extreme ego-centredness. Isaiah certainly begins with judgments concerning human conduct. The Israelites certainly experienced the ego-centredness of foreign powers.

However, Isaiah also begins and concludes with a hope and prayer that God is creating a new world order in which pain and suffering are lessened and then eliminated in favour of joy and celebration with God.

In its own quest for survival, Israel has certainly inflicted much, if not as much, pain and suffering on others as it has experienced. Can such pain and suffering ever result from an act of Love, tearing individuals away from ego-centredness and drawing them to other-centredness and Love?

Only God can transform our ego-centred acts into acts of kindness. If God were to choose not to do so, I doubt that there would be any hope at all for our future. A new heaven and a new earth rest with God alone.

There is no power like God. There is no force like Love. Loving God

with all our heart, soul, mind and strength is responding to God's Power and Love. Loving our neighbour as we are loved is a response to Pure Otherness.]

FROM NOW ON I WILL TELL YOU OF NEW THINGS,
OF HIDDEN THINGS UNKNOWN TO YOU.

[Love commands all peoples to love God with their whole being. This is not something that any of us can do except in response to the Love that God shows us. Unless and until God writes the commandments into our hearts and minds, we are locked into ego-centredness.]

I WILL WRITE MY LAWS
ON THEIR HEARTS AND MINDS.
I WILL BE THEIR GOD
AND THEY WILL BE MY PEOPLE.

[In our ego-centredness, whether we try to raise humanity up to be like God, or whether we try to bring God, down to be like humanity or whether we reject God, altogether as either non-existent or irrelevant, our first defence is always that we have done nothing wrong. God repeatedly responds that we can do no right. We do not have the strength, the intellect, the moral imagination or the genuine love to be and do what is right. However, God has promised to show us a way.]

I WILL BRING HEALTH AND HEALING.
I WILL HEAL MY PEOPLE AND
LET THEM ENJOY AN ABUNDANCE
OF PEACE AND TRUTH.

[Unless God takes on the responsibility of drawing us out of our ego-centredness, it will not and cannot be accomplished. Is God then at fault for our misconduct? All God asks of us is to acknowledge and respect God as God. Even that much, we must be taught to do daily.

Our second defence is always about others. Why does wickedness prosper? Why do the good struggle so much and often fall victim to evil. Again, the answer is the same. Humanity is ego-centred. God alone can draw us into other-centredness again and again and again

over time. We are growing and evolving into other-centredness in the face of ego-centredness. Ego-centredness serves a purpose but it is only a stage in life that needs to be overcome for a more abundant life. Yet, I doubt that humanity will or can accomplish other-centredness on its own.]

YOU ENTICED ME AND
I WAS PERSUADED;
YOU HAVE OVERCOME ME
AND HAVE PREVALED.

“But if I say, ‘I will not mention God’s word or speak anymore God’s name,’ God’s word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.”

THY WILL BE DONE.

TURN THOU US UNTO THEE, O LORD

AND WE SHALL BE TURNED:

RENEW OUR DAYS AS OF OLD.

[Some still have glimpses of Pure Otherness. Yet, the glimpses are so outstayed by durations of ego-centredness that one begins to wonder if even the glimpses are real.]

THEN I REMEMBERED SOMETHING

THAT FILLED ME WITH HOPE.

THE LORD'S KINDNESS NEVER FAILS!

IF GOD HAD NOT BEEN MERCIFUL,

WE WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.

THE LORD CAN ALWAYS BE TRUSTED

TO SHOW MERCY EACH MORNING.

DEEP IN MY HEART I SAY

"THE LORD IS ALL I NEED:

I CAN DEPEND ON GOD."

[We must learn to wait, quietly, patiently. All our rushing about doing

our own thing accomplishes nothing lasting. Only God can ensure life and life everlasting.]

IT IS GOOD THAT A HUMAN

SHOULD QUIETLY WAIT

FOR THE SALVATION OF THE LORD.

[Ego-centredness simply cannot survive. Pure Otherness must reign and reign in our hearts and minds if we are to flourish.]

GOD HAS OVERTHROWN YOU WITHOUT PITY.

[Well before consequential events, God announces that they will occur. Since we bring about the consequences of our own acts, we have no excuse for what transpires. Yet, God has promised to save us from ourselves.]

I WILL SEEK THE LOST,
BRING BACK THE OUTCAST,
BANDAGE THE BROKEN
AND STRENGTHEN THE SICK.
BUT THE FAT AND THE STRONG
I WILL DESTROY—
I WILL FEED THEM WITH JUDGMENT.

[The fat and the strong and the stubborn, the ego-centred, will fail.]

I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW HEART
AND PUT A NEW SPIRIT INSIDE YOU;
I WILL TAKE THE STONY HEART OUT OF YOUR FLESH
AND GIVE YOU A HEART OF FLESH.

[God can and will and does make us truly human and other-centred. God created us wondrously to be like God and God is Pure Otherness.]

I WILL SET ONE SHEPHERD OVER THEM,
MY SERVANT DAVID,
AND HE SHALL FEED THEM.

[I doubt that we can understand fully the true nature of other-centredness since it is a gift of God. Nevertheless, other-centredness can be experienced and through the experience we can know God. Until then, we are lifeless bones. Israel and all humanity is a pile of dry bone.]

TO THESE DRY BONES GOD SAYS
I WILL MAKE BREATH ENTER YOU
AND YOU WILL LIVE.
I WILL ATTACH LIGAMENTS TO YOU,
MAKE FLESH GROW ON YOU,
COVER YOU WITH SKIN AND
PUT BREATH IN YOU.
YOU WILL LIVE AND
YOU WILL KNOW
THAT I AM GOD.

[God gives life and God alone gives new life.]

Day 326

DANIEL

THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN

WHO UNLOCKS MYSTERIES.

[We think we know so much when in fact we know nothing except what God chooses to reveal.]

ALL GOD'S WORKS ARE TRUTH

AND GOD'S WAYS ARE JUST

AND GOD CAN HUMBLE

THOSE WHO WALK IN PRIDE.

[Who are we to question or even ask what God is doing?]

LORD, GOD YOU

ARE MERCIFUL AND FORGIVING.

[I doubt that we have any idea of our place in God's plan.]

ONE, LIKE A SON OF MAN...

WAS GIVEN AUTHORITY, GLORY AND SOVEREIGN POWER:

ALL NATIONS AND ALL PEOPLES OF EVERY LANGUAGE
WILL SERVE GOD.

[The self-serving can never knowingly serve others.]

WE DO NOT MAKE REQUESTS OF YOU
BECAUSE WE ARE RIGHTEOUS
BUT BECAUSE OF YOUR GREAT MERCY.

I WILL MAKE A COVENANT FOR THEM
WITH THE WILD ANIMALS,
THE BIRDS OF THE AIR AND
THE CREEPING THINGS.

[God's covenant is not just with Israel or even humanity but with the whole of God's living creation. However, God has a knowable relationship with Israel and with humanity.]

I WILL BETROTH YOU TO ME
IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, IN JUSTICE,
IN GRACE AND IN COMPASSION;
I WILL BETROTH YOU TO ME IN FAITHFULNESS
AND YOU WILL KNOW GOD.

[We all learn more of the extent of this Loving relationship as we learn new things:]

I WILL SAY TO THEM
THAT WERE NOT MY PEOPLE
"YOU ARE MY PEOPLE."
AND THEY WILL SAY,
'YOU ARE MY GOD.'

[When we fall away into ego-centredness, God will allow us to suffer the consequences for a time. However, God will in time rescue us from

ourselves and bring us back into a loving relationship.]

IT WAS I WHO TAUGHT
EPHRAM TO WALK:
BUT THEY DID NOT KNOW THAT IT WAS I
WHO WAS HEALING THEM.
I LED THEM WITH CORDS
OF HUMAN KINDNESS,
WITH BANDS OF LOVE.

[I doubt that we have yet learned much of what it means to have Pure
Otherness in our midst.]

[Joel reports what God has promised.]

“I WILL PURE OUT MY SPIRIT
ON ALL HUMANITY.”

[God gives commandments:]

“EVEN NOW TURN UNTO ME
WITH ALL YOUR HEART.”

[Joel states what he believes to be true.]

FOR GOD IS MERCIFUL
AND COMPASSIONATE.
SLOW TO ANGER AND
RICH IN GRACE.

[Confronted by amoral acts of nature, I doubt that Joel had much difficulty in distinguishing the moral promises of God. God can and will act to control nature. However, humans must learn that there are consequences for their own immoral egocentric acts.

God can restore to humanity the years that nature takes away, as God in fact has done many times in the past. However, Israel and humanity must learn to acknowledge the moral authority of God in our lives if we are to experience other-centredness.]

THEN MY PEOPLE WILL
NEVER AGAIN BE SHAMED.

YOU WILL KNOW THAT
I AM WITH ISRAEL AND THAT
I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD
AND THAT THERE IS NO OTHER.
THEN MY PEOPLE WILL
NEVER AGAIN BE SHAMED.

“ARE YOU NOT LIKE THE PEOPLE
OF ETHIOPIA TO ME.
O CHILDREN OF ISRAEL?”
SAYS THE LORD.
“DID I NOT BRING UP ISRAEL
FROM THE LAND OF EGYPT,
THE PHILISTINES FROM CAPHTOR,
AND THE SYRIANS FROM KIR?”

[God cares for all peoples but God has disclosed this Love especially to Israel.]

“YOU ONLY HAVE I CHOSEN
OF ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH;
THEREFORE, I WILL PUNISH YOU
FOR ALL YOUR SINS.”

[God teaches all nations through Israel how to forfeit their ego-centredness.]

HATE EVIL, LOVE GOOD,
MAINTAIN JUSTICE IN THE COURTS...
BUT LET JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS
FLOW LIKE A RIVER
THAT NEVER RUNS DRY.

[As a first step towards other-centredness involving any and all others, we must treat others equally. Yet, even enlightened self-interest may be viewed as nothing more than a way to greater self-interest. Other-centredness involves Love: Mercy and Grace. Until then, even religious celebrations are merely ego-serving ceremonies.

I doubt that we can ever take even these first baby steps in ego-forgetfulness without God's help.]

Day 330

OBADIAH

YOUR PROUD HEART HAS DECEIVED YOU.

[The ego-centred will fall to the ego-centred eventually. I doubt that it can be otherwise.]

THOUGH YOU SOAR LIKE THE EAGLE
AND MAKE YOUR NEST AMONG THE STARS,
I WILL BRING YOU DOWN FROM THERE, SAYS THE LORD.

[No mere human cares for anyone else other than themself.]

YOU ARE NO DIFFERENT.

[Mere humans bring each other down. I doubt that it can be any different.]

FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD
IS NEAR FOR ALL NATIONS;
AS YOU DID,
IT WILL BE DONE TO YOU;
YOUR DEEDS WILL RETURN
UPON YOUR OWN HEAD.

[The Kingdom of other-centredness belongs entirely to the Lord.]

THE KINGDOM WILL BE THE LORD'S.

[Humans often try to prevent or to alter the course of justice or acts of nature. Jonah however tried to prevent or to alter the course of mercy and forgiveness. God showed Jonah that God's Will will be done. Jonah was extremely angry and agitated that God didn't see things Jonah's way.]

TO JONAH THIS SEEMED VERY WRONG

AND JONAH BECAME VERY ANGRY.

[Jonah thought he knew why he was so angry. Jonah was in despair over the fact that he could not see things God's way.]

I KNEW YOU ARE

A GRACIOUS AND COMPASSIONATE GOD,

SLOW TO ANGER AND ABOUNDING IN LOVE...

[In his ego-centredness, Jonah despaired that he had done God's bidding. Jonah wanted to die. In fact, Jonah needed to die of his ego-centredness.]

JONAH WANTED TO DIE AND SAID,

"IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR ME TO DIE

THAN TO LIVE."

[Jonah had to relearn the lesson that God can give and God can take away in order that God might give us all even better things. But in our

ego-centredness, we do not, we cannot, appreciate the greater benefits of other-centredness. The people of Nineveh and Jonah himself needed to hear that message.]

SHOULD I NOT HAVE CONCERN

FOR THE GREAT CITY OF NINEVEH...?

[Events look very differently if we can see them through the eyes of other-centredness. I doubt that humans can catch more than glimpses of this Divine perspective. I further doubt that God is willing to allow us to rest content in ego-centredness.]

THE LAW WILL GO OUT FROM ZION,
THE WORD OF THE LORD FROM JERUSALEM.

[God's rule of other-centredness was revealed to Israel and through Israel to the whole of humanity. God does not ask much of us; however, even the little that God asks requires God's help to achieve.]

GOD HAS SHOWN YOU, O MORTAL, WHAT IS GOOD
AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU?
TO ACT JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY
AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.

[I doubt that an ego-centred Israel and an ego-centred humanity has or can ever achieve even these basic rules. The consequences of our failure will be devastating. However, God will not leave us to our own self-interests for long.]

WHO IS A GOD LIKE YOU,
WHO PARDONS SIN AND
FORGIVES TRANSGRESSIONS?

[The Israelites show us our sin and the consequences of our ego-centredness. We will all suffer the same fate. Yet, the Law will be enacted in Israel and the Word, Way, Work and Will of the Lord will proceed from Jerusalem.]

THEREFORE, ISRAEL WILL BE ABANDONED
UNTIL THE TIME WHEN SHE WHO IS IN LABOUR
BEARS A SON,
AND THE REST OF THE SON'S BROTHERS
RETURN TO JOIN THE ISRAELITES.

[The hope for Israel is the same hope for all humanity.]

THE SON WILL STAY AND
SHEPHERD THE FLOCK
IN THE STRENGTH OF THE LORD,
IN THE MAJESTY OF THE NAME
OF THE LORD, GOD.
AND THEY WILL LIVE SECURELY,
FOR THEN GOD'S GREATNESS
WILL REACH THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

[Other-centredness will be the only way forward. Ego-centredness is the reason we each suffer and die. Other-centredness is the gift of new life.]

[Those individuals and nations whom God does not release from ego-centred experience are punished enough.]

THE LORD IS GOOD,

A REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE.

GOD CARES FOR THOSE

WHO TRUST IN GOD.

[The fate of all nations is the same. Extreme ego-centredness leads to excessive cruelty only to fall victim to even greater self-interest and even more excessive cruelty.]

LOOK, THERE ON THE MOUNTAINS,

THE FEET OF ONE WHO BRINGS GOOD NEWS,

WHO PROCLAIMS PEACE.

[Other-centredness has been revealed to the Israelites. They celebrate something lasting and they renew and fulfill sacred vows of trust.]

CELEBRATE YOUR FESTIVALS, JUDAH;

FULFILL YOUR VOWS.

[I doubt that Israel as a people is any different from other nations in their desire for wealth and power. The difference lies with the all-powerful God who can set them free not only from foreign domination but more importantly from ego-centredness.]

I WILL BREAK YOUR YOKE AND

I WILL TEAR OFF YOUR CHAINS.

[God is more powerful than any foreign power and Pure Otherness can overcome all ego-centredness.]

[All of the prophets may have tried to convey this single message.
Surely it is a theme that runs through the whole of scripture.]

LOOK AT THE PROUD;

THEIR SPIRIT IS NOT RIGHT.

ONLY THOSE WHO LIVE BY FAITH IN GOD

WILL BECOME TRULY JUST.

[Only God can transform the ego-centred into other-centred creatures.]

LOOK AT THE NATIONS AND SEE!

BE ASTONISHED! BE ASTONISHED!

FOR A WORK IS BEING DONE IN YOUR DAYS

THAT YOU WOULD NOT BELIEVE IF YOU WERE TOLD.

[I doubt that there is anything more amazing.]

O LORD, I HAVE HEARD OF YOUR RENOWN

AND I STAND IN AWE, O LORD, OF YOUR WORK.

IN OUR OWN TIME REVIVE IT,

IN OUR OWN TIME MAKE IT KNOWN,

IN WRATH MAY YOU REMEMBER MERCY.

[Our extreme ego-centredness must be abhorrent to God; yet, God forgives us and shares with us God's Own other-centredness.]

SEEK RIGHTEOUSNESS,
SEEK HUMILITY.

[A right relationship with God requires an acknowledgement of God's Will over our will. Why would God have us renounce God's gift of human will? The fact that God commands this out of Love can only mean that God's Will will prove to be infinity more perfect in Goodness, Truth and Beauty.]

MY DECISION IS TO GATHER NATIONS,
TO ASSEMBLE KINGDOMS,
TO POUR OUT UPON THEM MY INDIGNATION.

[God intends for a time to leave us to our own devices. Only when we have exhausted ourselves in human foolishness will God reveal God's Will.]

AT THAT TIME, I WILL
PURIFY EACH LANGUAGE
AND MAKE THOSE LANGUAGES
ACCEPTABLE FOR PRAISING ME.
THEN, WITH HEARTS UNITED,
EVERYONE WILL SERVE GOD
WITH ONE CONSENT.

[Why would God Almighty want our puny praise and weak and worthless service? I doubt that God lacks for anything. Surely this must be for humanity's good. Other-centredness is also a gift of God and an even greater gift than the gift of ego-centredness.]

THE LORD YOUR GOD
IS ALWAYS WITH YOU,

A MIGHTY ONE WHO WILL SAVE YOU;
GOD CELEBRATES AND SINGS
BECAUSE OF YOU AND
GOD WILL REFRESH
YOUR LIFE WITH
DIVINE LOVE.

I WILL BRING TOGETHER
THE LAME AND THE OUTCAST,
THEN THEY WILL BE PRAISED
INSTEAD OF DESPISED
IN EVERY COUNTRY ON EARTH.
I WILL LEAD YOU HOME.

Day 336

HAGGAI

[When we think of a temple or of a cathedral or of a church or of a house of worship, it is automatic to think of a building, perhaps a magnificent building where God is to be praised and thanked. However, from the very beginning, God intended for us to think of a gathering of people as a place of worship.]

I AM WITH YOU...

MY SPIRIT REMAINS AMONG YOU.

[Yet, we have set temple against cathedral against church against houses of worship, each one claiming a unique if not exclusive access and right to God.]

GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS.

[We have thought long and hard about individual secular survival but we have neglected collective sacred concerns. In times of crisis, we can become even more ego-centred. During the resulting chaos, God can affect Divine Will.]

I WILL SHAKE ALL THE NATIONS

THEN THE RICH DESIRES OF ALL NATIONS

WILL BE BROUGHT TO ME AND

I WILL FILL THIS LOCATION
WITH EVEN GREATER SPLENDOUR.
IN THIS PLACE I WILL GRANT PEACE.

[Only God can bring us all together. Only God can fulfill God's purpose. I doubt that there is any other way to a full and prosperous cooperation. I doubt that we can begin to envision the sacred cooperation and the secular fruits that are to come. The death of the old allows for new and better ways of life.]

[I doubt that the human mind will prove to be as powerful as the human heart. Love triumphs over reason.]

I AM THE LORD ALL-POWERFUL
SO DON'T DEPEND ON
YOUR OWN POWER OR STRENGTH
BUT ON MY SPIRIT.

SON ONCE AGAIN,
I, THE LORD ALL-POWERFUL,
TELL YOU
“SEE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE
AND BE KIND AND MERCIFUL
TO ONE ANOTHER.”

REJOICE GREATLY PEOPLE OF ZION!
SHOUT ALOUD, PEOPLE OF JERUSALEM!
BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU,
RIGHTEOUS AND VICTORIOUS,
YET THE KING IS HUMBLE...

I WILL PROCLAIM PEACE TO THE NATIONS.
THE KING WILL RULE ... THE EARTH.

BECAUSE OF THE BLOOD
OF MY AGREEMENT WITH YOU,
I HAVE SET YOUR PEOPLE FREE.

I WILL USE JUDAH AS MY BOW
AND ISRAEL AS MY ARROW.
I WILL TAKE THE PEOPLE OF ZION

AS MY SWORD AND
ATTACK THE GREEKS.

WITH TWO STICKS: MERCY AND UNITY,
I WILL MAKE JERUSALEM
AN IMMOVABLE ROCK FOR ALL THE NATIONS.

Day 338

MALACHI

I AM THE LORD ALL-POWERFUL

AND

I NEVER CHANGE.

[God, the Creator of us all, is Father, Master, King and Judge. For God, the Source of Love, Peace, Truth and Faith, makes an agreement with the heart and soul and mind and strength of humanity].

GOD WILL TURN THE HEART...

[God, the giver of life and peace, will be praised by every nation, from east to west, from dusk until dawn.]

I AM THE LORD ALL-POWERFUL

AND

I CHALLENGE YOU TO PUT ME TO THE TEST.

[We respect and honour God knowing God walks with us. If God is with us, I doubt that we have anything to fear. God makes the Way, the Word, the Work and the Will of God known to humanity.]

Omega Days

Day 339

MATTHEW

...BUT I TELL YOU:

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU

THAT YOU MAY BE CHILDREN

OF YOUR FATHER...

[God offers and will give each of us the seemingly impossible.]

... THERE IS NONE GOOD

BUT ONE,

THAT IS GOD.

[We are free to be human and God is free to be Pure Otherness. I doubt that humans are capable of independent acts of other-centredness.]

... YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD

YOUR GOD...

YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

AS YOURSELF...

[God can and will transform the acts of our hearts and souls and minds and strength into other-centred acts of love. God is Absolute Pure Otherness and deals with our impossibilities.]

Day 340

MARK

[Jesus went about healing all types of illness: physical, mental, spiritual and emotional.]

JESUS SAID TO THEM
THOSE WHO ARE WELL
HAVE NO NEED OF A DOCTOR
BUT THOSE WHO ARE SICK.
I HAVE NOT COME TO CALL THE PIOUS
BUT SINNERS.

[We are all ego-centred by nature: survival instincts, intellectual perspectives, moral imaginations and individual desires.]

JESUS CALLED THE PEOPLE
AND GOD'S FOLLOWERS
AND SAID TO THEM
IF ANY OF YOU
WANTS TO BECOME
MY FOLLOWER,
YOU MUST GIVE UP YOUR OWN WAY,
TAKE UP YOUR CROSS
AND FOLLOW ME.

[Only God can free us from ego-centredness that we might know other-centredness.]

THERE IS NONE GOOD
BUT ONE,

THAT IS GOD.

[I doubt that we can ever know any greater joy than the joy of being conformed to God's Way, Word, Work and Will, the Joy of Other-Centredness.]

THE LORD OUR GOD,
THE LORD IS ONE.
LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND
WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND
WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND
WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.

Day 341 LUKE

[God is the All-Powerful Creator.]

GLORY TO GOD
IN THE HIGHEST,
PEACE ON EARTH
AMONG THOSE
OF GOOD WILL.

[God the Son is the Way, Word, Work and Will of God.]

THE CHANGE OF HEART
THAT LEADS TO THE FORGIVENESS OF SIN
MUST BE PROCLAIMED IN CHRIST'S NAME
TO ALL NATIONS
BEGINNING AT JERUSALEM.

[God the Holy Spirit is the Peace of Other-centredness.]

PEACE BE WITH YOU.

[God the Father is the merciful Forgiver of ego-centredness.]

YOUR FAITH HAS SAVED YOU.

GO IN PEACE.

[I doubt that we can know a greater peace than the Peace of Pure Otherness.]

Day 342

JOHN

[Other-centredness is a gift of Pure Otherness.]

FLESH GIVES BIRTH TO FLESH BUT

ONLY THE SPIRIT GIVES BIRTH TO SPIRIT.

[The sacred freely infuses the secular with spiritual life-giving bread, blood, beauty and light, with goodness and with love. The sacred exceeds the secular by a factor of infinity.]

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE;

NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER

EXCEPT THROUGH ME.

[God Loves the whole world, the whole of creation. However, secular creation has fallen into extreme ego-centredness. Yet, other-centredness can and does transform ego-centredness into other-centredness.]

I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.

[I doubt that God condemns the secular world. God Loves the world. However, God will not accept the world in its self-centred state. God intends to transform the world into a state of other-centredness, a spiritual world.]

I IN THEM AND YOU IN ME –

SO THAT THEY MAY BE BROUGHT

TO COMPLETE UNITY.

THEN THE WORLD WILL KNOW

THAT YOU SENT ME AND HAVE LOVED THEM

EVEN AS YOU HAVE LOVED ME.

[Those who are still only ego-centred hate those who have experienced other-centredness because other-centredness makes absolutely no sense to those who are still only ego-centred.]

[The acts of God through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a progression throughout life and throughout the entire world.]

IN THE LAST DAYS,
GOD SAYS,
I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT
ON ALL FLESH.

[The gift of the Loving Spirit of other-centredness is for all living creatures.]

I CAN SEE, FOR SURE.
GOD DOES NOT RESPECT
ONE PERSON MORE THAN ANOTHER.

[Nevertheless, the gift and gifts of the Loving Spirit are measured out. Each person must grow into their full measure of faith. Ego-centredness and other-centredness are portioned out and available to all.]

FOR IN GOD'S LOVE
WE LIVE AND MOVE
AND HAVE OUR BEING,
AS GOD'S CHILDREN.

[Humanity is currently engaged in a struggle between ego-centredness and other-centredness. However, we must not worship humanity in either its ego- or selfless state.]

GO TO THE PEOPLE AND SAY
HEARING YOU WILL HEAR
AND NOT UNDERSTAND,
SEEING YOU WILL SEE
AND NOT PERCEIVE,
FOR THE HEART
OF THIS PEOPLE
HAS BECOME STUBBORN.

[I doubt that any generation of humanity can move itself along the continuum of love. We simply do not know how to transform our ego-centredness into other-centredness.]

Day 344 ROMANS

[So easy to receive and so impossible to achieve: other-centredness is a gift of God.]

FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED
OF THE GOOD NEWS.
IT IS THE POWER OF GOD
TO SAVE EVERYONE
WHO BELIEVES.

[Not even belief or faith is required of us. We are completely incapable of other-centredness.]

IT IS OF FAITH,
THAT IT MIGHT BE BY GRACE...
SINCE WE HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED BY FAITH,
WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD
THROUGH OUR LORD
CHRIST JESUS.

[I doubt that humanity has anything to do with the creation of other-centredness.]

NO ONE IS ACCEPTABLE TO GOD.

[God alone makes it possible for us to experience other-centredness because of Christ Jesus.]

WE HAVE BEEN BURIED WITH CHRIST
THROUGH BAPTISM INTO DEATH
SO THAT JUST AS CHRIST
WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD
BY THE GLORY OF THE FATHER,
WE TOO CAN LIVE A NEW LIFE.

[Other-centredness is a new life of Love.]

Day 345

I CORINTHIANS

NO ONE CAN SAY THAT JESUS IS LORD,

EXCEPT BY THE LOVING SPIRIT.

[I doubt that other-centredness can be anything other than a response to the Loving Spirit. Yet, the response of other-centredness is life experienced to the fullest.]

IF I SPEAK IN THE LANGUAGE
OF HUMANS OR OF ANGELS,
BUT DO NOT HAVE LOVE,
I AM ONLY A NOISY GONG
OR A CLANGING CYMBAL.

IF I HAVE THE GIFT
OF PROPHECY...
OF UNDERSTANDING...
AND OF FAITH,
BUT DO NOT HAVE LOVE,
I AM NOTHING.

IF I GIVE AWAY ALL MY POSSESSIONS
AND ENDURE ALL KINDS OF HARDSHIP
THAT I MAY BOAST,
I GAIN NOTHING.

LOVE IS PATIENT,
LOVE IS KIND...

LOVE IS NOT PROUD...
LOVE IS NOT SELF-SEEKING...
LOVE NEVER FAILS
PROPHECIES WILL CEASE...
COMMUNICATION WILL BE SILENCED...
KNOWLEDGE WILL PASS AWAY...
THESE THREE WILL REMAIN:
FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE

BUT THE GREATEST IS
LOVE.

Day 346

II CORINTHIANS

CHRIST DIED FOR ALL OF US

SO THAT WE WOULD NO LONGER

LIVE ONLY FOR OURSELVES.

[It is not that anyone is no longer ego-centred but one becomes aware of the possibility of living an other-centred life from time to time.]

IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST

THAT PERSON IS A NEW PERSON.

[I very much doubt that one can exploit other-centredness for ego-centred concerns: other-centredness is purely other-centred.]

GOD HAS DONE IT ALL.

GOD WAS IN CHRIST,

OFFERING PEACE AND FORGIVENESS

TO ALL PEOPLE

OF THIS WORLD.

GOD HAS GIVEN US THE WORK

OF SHARING THE MESSAGE

OF PEACE.

[Ego-centredness makes little or no sense. There is no ego-sufficiency, no ego-satisfaction and no ego-endurance. Other-centredness makes perfect sense. Other-centredness is Love, Peace, Truth and Strength beyond belief.]

WE CAN DO NOTHING
AGAINST THE TRUTH,
BUT ONLY WITH THE TRUTH.

[There is only one death, the death of ego-centredness in Christ. There is only one eternal life, the life of other-centredness through Christ.]

Day 347

GALATIANS

[We are all equal before God: equally ego-centred creatures and equally other-centred lovelings.]

IN JESUS CHRIST...

FAITH WORKS BY LOVE.

[Other-centredness is not our doing.]

IF WE LIVE IN THE SPIRIT,

LET US ALSO WALK

IN LOVE.

[Mindfulness is a good thing but actions can be better.]

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS

LOVE, JOY, PEACE,

PATIENCE, KINDNESS,

GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS,

GENTLENESS AND

SELF-CONTROL.

[I doubt that any of those fruits can originate in ego-centredness or serve ego-centredness. If we could be made right with God by any other means, then Christ would have died in vain. Christ's death was the only way by which we could be given the gift of other-centredness. Our ego-centredness dies with Christ Jesus.]

I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST.

I NO LONGER LIVE

BUT THE MESSIAH LIVES IN ME.

Day 348**EPHESIANS**

[For what do we all need forgiveness? From time to time, if not all the time, we have a reckless disregard for life, our own and that of others. Our pride dominates our behaviour. At such times, we reject a God who would question our intentions and acts, and who is the Source of forgiveness and help. In a word, we need our ego-centredness forgiven and our lives transformed.]

IT IS BY GRACE

YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED

THROUGH FAITH –

THIS IS NOT FROM YOURSELF.

IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD.

IT IS NOT FROM WORKS,

SO THAT NO ONE CAN BOAST.

[What results when we are recreated in Christ, seemingly against our will? Centredness: other-centredness.]

ONE NEW HUMANITY

[How is the new creation achieved?]

ROOTED AND GROUNDED

IN THE LOVING SPIRIT

[How extensive is this unity?]

BINDING THE WHOLE

OF CREATION

IN PEACE.

[That Love, that Peace, that Truth and that Faith infinitely exceeds our understanding. I doubt that we can hope for any greater freedom than a freedom for other-centredness.]

Day 349

PHILIPPIANS

DO NOT ACT OUT OF SELFISH AMBITION OR CONCEIT,

BUT WITH HUMILITY THINK OF OTHERS

AS BEING BETTER THAN YOURSELF.

[Paul was very critical of those who should have known better than to act continuously out of self-interest. Likewise, Paul was critical of himself for often acting out of self-interest.]

WORK OUT THE SALVATION

THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

WITH A PROPER SENSE

OF AWE AND RESPONSIBILITY.

[In any and every situation, we can ask God humbly and with thanksgiving in the name of Love.]

FOR IT IS GOD

WHO IS AT WORK

WITHIN YOU GIVING YOU

THE WILL AND THE POWER

TO ACHIEVE LOVE'S PURPOSE.

[I doubt that we can do more than ask, give thanks, be at peace and

rejoice in the outcome.]

KEEP ON REJOICING

IN THE LORD

AT ALL TIMES.

[May the Love of the Father, the Authority of the Son, the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit and the Peace of God be with us all.]

[We may think we prefer being ego-centred to being other-centred. However, we actually prefer ego-centredness to no centredness. We might even fear other-centredness as a form of no centredness. We need to experience a re-centring in order to appreciate other-centredness. As a weak comparison, one might consider the transition to stereoscopic vision or stereoscopic sound. Those born with a squint have no stereo vision; those born with a tin ear have no stereo sound. One doesn't go blind or deaf if one's eyes or ears are realigned; far from it. One sees more distinctly and hears more acutely. One tries to retain and develop the stereo experience. Somewhat similarly, we act out of ego-centredness, fearing no centredness. Yet, God can transform our fear of no centredness into other-centred joy. An other-centred experience is a much more abundant life experience than ego-centred experience. Nevertheless, we may continue to fear no centredness as we might fear blindness or deafness. Yet, other-centred is what we can be, even though we are all born ego-centred.]

PATIENTLY ENDURE
EVERYTHING
WITH JOY.

UNITED
IN LOVE.

GOD MADE YOU
ALIVE WITH CHRIST
WHEN GOD FORGAVE US
ALL OF OUR OFFENCES.

REALITY BELONGS
TO THE MESSIAH.

SELF-MADE RELIGION,
FALSE HUMILITY AND
HARSH TREATMENT....
HAVE NO POWER
AGAINST
SELF-INDULGENCE.

SING TO GOD
WITH THANKFULNESS.

[I doubt that the ego-centred world, with all of its human requirements, has any real freedom to offer. We are slaves, servants and heirs of a different Master, we all serve the Messiah.]

[In this first letter, Paul states that the Word of God is about forgiveness and peace.]

GRACE AND PEACE TO YOU.

[It is Paul's belief that our joy resides in the fact that God teaches us and enables us to love each other more and more.]

MAY THE LORD GREATLY

INCREASE YOUR LOVE

FOR EACH OTHER AND

FOR ALL PEOPLE,

JUST AS WE LOVE YOU.

[Ego-centred individuals inflict considerable suffering on other-centred people and on each other.]

WHILE PEOPLE ARE SAYING

EVERYTHING IS PEACEFUL AND SAFE,

DESTRUCTION WILL COME UPON THEM.

[Only other-centred groups will continue to experience the trust, the inspiration and the love that will enable them not just to endure but also to change and thrive.]

THE LOVE OF THE LORD,

THE MESSIAH, BE WITH YOU.

[I doubt that ego-centred individuals will ever see things that way.]

[God the Father calls us out of ego-centredness and into God's Kingdom of other-centredness.]

THAT OUR GOD
MAY MAKE YOU WORTHY
OF GOD'S CALLING AND
THAT BY GOD'S POWER
GOD MAY BRING
TO FRUITION
YOUR EVERY DESIRE
FOR GOODNESS AND
YOUR EVERY DEED
PROMPTED BY FAITH...

[God the Son leads us in God's Way, Word, Work and Will.]

THAT THE NAME OF OUR LORD
MAY BE GLORIFIED IN YOU
AND YOU IN OUR LORD,
ACCORDING TO THE GRACE
OF OUR GOD AND
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

[God the Loving Spirit enables us to grow in Love, Peace, Truth and Trust.]

THE SANTIFYING WORK
OF THE LOVING SPIRIT...
MAY THE LORD
DIRECT YOUR HEARTS
INTO GOD'S LOVE AND
CHRIST'S PERSERVERANCE.

[I doubt that there is any evil other than extreme ego-centredness.]

Day 353

II TIMOTHY

THE WORK OF GOD

IS BY FAITH.

THE GOAL IS LOVE.

[It is only by an act of God that any are converted from ego-centredness to other-centredness.]

ONE GOD AND

ONE MEDIATOR

BETWEEN GOD

AND HUMANITY.

[Other-centredness is a gift intended for the whole of creation.]

EVERYTHING

GOD CREATES

IS GOOD.

[The ego-centred fear death: the other-centred look forward to eternal Love.]

WE BROUGHT NOTHING

INTO THE WORLD AND

WE CAN TAKE NOTHING

OUT OF THE WORLD.

[I doubt that we have a clear idea as to what we were but what we can be depends on Love. We awoke in ego-centredness; we may die into other-centredness. Yet, both remain a gift of Love.]

Day 354

II TIMOTHY

PURSUE
RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FAITH,
LOVE
AND
PEACE
WITH THOSE
WHO CALL
ON THE LORD.

[I doubt that we can begin to imagine the days of other-centredness. We can, however, begin to imagine and act towards ending the days of extreme ego-centredness.]

Day 355

TITUS

[Paul speaks often of the need for sons and daughters, husbands and wives, leaders and followers to exhibit self-control in order to do selfless good works.]

AT ONE TIME,

WE ARE ALL FOOLISH...

[Yet, we are never the source of selfless good works nor the initiators of self-control.]

WHEN THE KINDNESS AND LOVE

OF GOD OUR SAVIOUR APPEARED,

GOD SAVED US NOT BECAUSE

OF GOOD THINGS WE HAD DONE

BUT BECAUSE OF GOD'S LOVE.

[How is this possible?]

THROUGH REBIRTH AND RENEWAL

BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF LOVE...

[To what end are we saved?]

HAVING BEEN JUSTIFIED

BY GOD'S GRACE,
WE MIGHT BECOME HEIRS
HAVING THE HOPE
OF ETERNAL LIFE.

[I doubt that there is any other source for the hope of selflessness and of selfless good works. Selfless good works are our proof of God's Kingdom of Other-centredness.]

Day 356

PHILEMON

[Former slaves to ego-centredness, we are now willing prisoners and servants in Love to other-centredness.]

A PRISONER OF CHRIST JESUS.

[Good works resulting from other-centredness can be infinitely more Loving, Peaceful, Truthful and Powerful than any good works resulting from self-interest. No one can believe that until one experiences it for the first time. Then there is no denying it, although some still reject it in favour of ego-centredness.]

THE GRACE

OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

BE WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

[Brothers and sisters, fellow humans and friends, fellow workers and partners in Christ.]

YOU OWE ME

YOUR VERY OWN SELF.

[We owe each other our other-centredness in Christ. We don't get to set the ultimate commandments nor do we get to fulfill them. Our new life is in Pure Otherness and in Other-centredness.]

God can save us from our self-centredness but I doubt that God forces anyone into other-centredness.]

I WILL MAKE A NEW COVENANT...
I WILL PUT MY LAWS IN THEIR MINDS
AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS.

[Egoistic humans were unable to fulfill the original covenant of God. The purpose of those laws may well have been to show humanity that we were incapable of doing God's Will.]

THEIR SINS AND LAWLESS ACTS
I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.

[God does not hold our ego-centredness against us. We are egoistic creatures by nature. Yet, the Holy Spirit can show us the way of other-centredness.]

JESUS THE MEDIATOR
OF THE NEW COVENANT...
WE ARE RECEIVING A KINGDOM
THAT CANNOT BE SHAKEN,
LET US BE THANKFUL
AND WORSHIP GOD
WITH REVERENCE AND AWE.

[The new covenant cannot be removed. God's Kingdom of Other-centredness has been established forever.]

NOW MAY THE GOD OF PEACE,
WHO THROUGH THE BLOOD
OF THE ETERNAL COVENANT
BROUGHT BACK FROM THE DEAD
OUR LORD JESUS...

EQUIP YOU WITH EVERY GOOD
FOR DOING GOD'S WILL,
WORKING IN US
WHAT IS PLEASING TO GOD
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST
TO WHOM BE GLORY
FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

[The death of One without ego-centredness and the resurrection of that One in continued Other-centredness is a matter of faith. I doubt that it is something that humanity could even have hoped for.]

Day 358

JAMES

THE TESTING OF YOUR FAITH

PRODUCES PATIENT PERSEVERANCE.

[I doubt that personal faith without public works is likely to be or intended to be very convincing to others. A faith in other-centredness is as much a matter of works as belief.]

I WILL SHOW YOU

MY FAITH BY MY WORKS.

[Both faith and works come from Pure Otherness not from a prideful ego-centredness.]

THE WISDOM THAT COMES

FROM GOD

IS FIRST OF ALL PURE;

THEN PEACE LOVING,

CONSIDERATE, SUBMISSIVE,

FULL OF LOVING KINDNESS

AND GOOD DEEDS,

IMPARTIAL AND SINCERE.

[Yet, no human is perfect. Other-centredness gives way again and again to ego-centredness.]

WHAT CAUSES THE CONFLICTS

AND QUARRELS AMONG YOU?

...SELFISH DESIRES...

[Only God is good. If the Lord wills...]

PEACEMAKERS SOW PEACE

AND REAP JUSTICE.

Day 359

I PETER

[Be holy, for I AM Holy: be loving, for I AM Love.]

THE SANCTIFYING WORK

OF THE SPIRIT...

[Those whom you love, Pure Otherness Loves unconditionally. Those whom you dislike or even hate, Pure Otherness Loves equally, impartially, unconditionally.]

THE PEOPLE OF GOD...

SLAVES OF GOD.

[It is the Loving Spirit Who makes us conscious of the breadth of injustice. The ego-centred care only about self-interest. The other-centred are taught to care for others.]

SO THAT IN ALL THINGS

GOD MAY BE PRAISED

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

[Sin and suffering and death were not foreign to Jesus. I doubt that it can be any different for God's followers.]

PEACE TO ALL OF YOU

WHO ARE IN CHRIST.

[The judgment of God is to make us ashamed of extreme ego-centredness. I doubt that any other judgment could be so revealing.]

WITH HUMILITY AND REVERENCE,
ALWAYS BE READY TO EXPLAIN
TO ANYONE WHO ASKS ABOUT
THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU.

Day 360

II PETER

[Prophets speak of the Promise of participation with the Loving Spirit in other-centredness.]

GOD BY GOD'S OWN ACTION
HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING
THAT IS NECESSARY FOR
LIVING THE TRULY GOOD LIFE.

[False prophets know and speak only fabrications out of and about ego-centredness.]

IN THEIR GREED
THESE TEACHERS
WILL EXPLOIT YOU.

[The ego-centred blaspheme about matters that they do not understand.]

THEY PROMISE FREEDOM,
WHILE THEY THEMSELVES
ARE SLAVES OF DEPRAVITY.

[Since ego-centredness will pass away, prophets of love look forward to a new heaven and a new earth when there will be continuous other-centredness.]

GOD IS NOT SLOW...

OUR MERCIFUL LORD

IS VERY PATIENT.

[I doubt that the ego-centred can understand let alone grow in other-centredness. We are all still ego-centred to a very large degree.]

Day 361

I JOHN

ETERNAL LIFE HAS APPEARED...

OUR FELLOWSHIP IS WITH

THE FATHER AND WITH GOD'S SON,

JESUS CHRIST.

[Newly born, children of Love, God has given us eternal life and life is in God's Son.]

GOD IS LIGHT...

GOD IS TRUTH...

[God sent God's Son into the world that we might have understanding.]

GOD IS RIGHTEOUS...

GOD IS WITHOUT SIN.

[Sin is lawlessness. Sin is being only ego-centred. We still sin.]

GOD IS PURE...

GOD IS SPIRIT,

GOD IS LOVE.

[God has inspired us with the Spirit of Love that we might know the Truth of Other-centredness. God is Pure Otherness: the Creating Father, the Beloved Son, the Loving Spirit.]

THE TRUTH
LIVES IN US AND
WILL BE WITH US
FOREVER.

[We follow a loving teacher.]

GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE
FROM GOD THE FATHER
AND
FROM JESUS CHRIST
THE FATHER'S SON
WILL BE WITH US
IN TRUTH AND LOVE.

[The Kindness and Forgiveness and Peace of God comes to us in Truth
and Love.]

THIS IS LOVE.
WE WALK IN LOVE,
IN OBEDIENCE
TO GOD'S LOVE
COMMANDMENTS.

[I doubt that there will be any alternative to walking in the command-
ments of Love.]

THE ANTICHRISTS...
ARE DECEIVERS WHO
DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE
JESUS CHRIST AS
COMING IN THE FLESH.

[The antichrists favour ego-centredness over other-centredness, favour self over Love.]

[Is there evil in the world? Does the devil exist? Who is Satan? Ego-centredness ranges from decreasing to absolute. Selfishness is evil. A devil is one who knows about other-centredness but prefers to be ego-centred. Satan is one so absolutely ego-centred that any knowledge of other-centredness no longer exists.]

WHO LOVES TO BE FIRST.

[There are times when we all seek to be front and centre. If it results in or from putting other down, how can it be good?]

ANYONE WHO DOES

WHAT IS GOOD

IS FROM GOD.

[Is there good in the world? Does a Saviour exist? Who is God? Other-centredness ranges from increasing to Absolute. Other-centredness is goodness that comes from God. A good person is one who prefers to follow the Truth, to walk according to the good news. God is Pure Otherness Who Loves creation.]

NO GREATER JOY.

[There can be no greater gladness than walking together in God's Way with God's Word doing God's Work according to God's Will. Love was in the beginning. Love will be in the end. Love, Peace, Truth and Faith/Strength are gifts of unspeakable Goodness.]

PEACE TO YOU.

[The Christian message is so simple that you must be childlike to receive it. God forgives us our ego-centredness and enables us to be other-centred. The Loving Spirit is the Enabler. Jesus, as Pure Otherness in the flesh, was the only human to live a purely other-centred life. I doubt that we will ever fully comprehend what that means.]

Day 364

JUDE

THE THINGS THE UNGODLY
DO NOT UNDERSTAND
WILL DESTROY THEM.

[To love only one's own life is to be restricted to one's own desires and intentions. I doubt that that is what creation is all about.]

THEY BOAST ABOUT THEMSELVES
AND FLATTER OTHERS FOR
THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE.

[Ego-centred individuals can be found everywhere for we are all ego-centred. Only the Loving Spirit can turn us towards other-centredness and keep us in God's Love.]

THOSE WHO PERVERT
THE GRACE OF GOD
INTO A LICENSE
FOR IMMORALITY.

[The ungodly feed only themselves.]

TO THE LOVING SPIRIT
WHO IS ABLE TO KEEP YOU
FROM FALLING AND
TO PRESENT YOU

BEFORE GOD'S
GLORIOUS PRESENCE
WITHOUT FAULT AND
WITH GREAT JOY –
TO THE ONLY GOD
OUR SAVIOUR
BE GLORY, MAJESTY,
POWER AND AUTHORITY,
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST
OUR LORD
BEFORE ALL AGES, NOW
AND FOREVERMORE.

Day 365

REVELATION

[Ultimately, doubt that we can do anything more than listen and respond.]

I AM ALPHA
AND OMEGA
SAYS THE LORD
WHO IS AND
WHO WAS AND
WHO IS TO COME,
THE ALMIGHTY.

[God alone can inform us.]

JESUS CHRIST
WHO IS THE FAITHFUL WITNESS,
THE FIRSTBORN OF THE DEAD,
AND THE RULER
OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH.

[God alone can save us from our ego-centredness.]

CHRIST LOVES US
AND BY HIS BLOOD
HE SET US FREE

FROM OUR SINS.

[God alone can free us to live a life of other-centredness.]

MAY KINDNESS AND PEACE

BE TO YOU FROM

JESUS CHRIST.